

GREEN RIVER VILLAGE PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 28

Spring / Summer 2023



Dear Neighbors and Friends of Green River,

We hope this rather long but important newsletter finds you healthy and enjoying the longer, warmer, and brighter days of June. We are writing to share news of what is happening in Green River, provide an update on our past fall and winter activities and share a preview of what we plan to do this spring and summer.

NEWS FROM GREEN RIVER VILLAGE

A Sad Announcement

We are deeply saddened to share that Adelaide (Addie) Minott died peacefully, at home, on May 02, 2023, at the age of 91. Addie and her husband Addison founded the Green River Village Preservation Trust in 1999 to help preserve the Village of Green River which they so dearly loved. Addie, (often described as the heart and soul of the village), died in the same red house, on the hill overlooking the dam, that she had lived in for over 70 years. She was a wonderful and dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, historian, gardener, conservationist, advisor, and friend. Her absence will be deeply felt by her family, friends, and colleagues forever. Addison, at age 93, carries on and, while a bit slower in movement, he is still very much involved in Trust activities and decision making. There will be a memorial service for Addie on Saturday, June 17, at 11:00am at the Green River Church. The service will be followed by a luncheon at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guildford Center. All who knew and loved Addie are invited to attend.

Estey Organ Rehabilitation to be Done in Addie's Honor

The beautiful and historical Estey organ (built in 1888) has been an integral feature of the Green River Church for 143 years. In Addie's honor, the Trust has committed to rehabilitating the organ in time for Addie's memorial service on June 17th. To that end, we have hired Ned Phoenix, an Estey organ expert, to do the work. Ned has kindly and graciously agreed to do the work, on short notice, and he has agreed to play the organ at the service. While a complete rehabilitation of the organ will be necessary at some point in the future, this current effort should make the organ "serviceable" for years to come.

The March Snowstorm

The entire Green River area took a severe pounding during the March 14th snowstorm. During this multi-day event, over 30 inches of heavy, wet, snow blanketed the area taking down many trees and power lines

and snapping utility poles. Many residents were without power, phone or internet for six days and several local homes and structures were damaged by falling trees.

The Green River dam and the stone retaining wall were slightly damaged by a toppled tree that ended up resting directly on the dam and the wall. In addition, due to some subsequent high-water events, three large blow-down trees and their attached root balls ended up lying in the water and directly on the dam. To prevent further damage, it was necessary to hire a crane and a crew of experienced arborists to do the tricky removals. The cost to the Trust to have this necessary, but unexpected work done was over \$3,000.

Additional Village Happenings

The spring flowers and blooming trees were exceptional this year and the Village was alive with color for many weeks. The normal amount of homeowner and renter turnover has taken place, so there is another spring flurry of painting, construction and maintenance occurring. The Green River Bridge Inn has now started offering food and drink two days per week. They serve Flammkuchen (German style pizza) on Thursday nights and brunch on Sunday morning. Check out their website for more information. A beautiful, warm Memorial Day Weekend brought out many hearty swimmers, cyclists, bikers and runners.

Albeit tiny, Green River remains a very active place.

Spring Maintenance

Trust members have completed the annual spring maintenance chores and tasks, including raking, trimming, mowing, removing invasives, and revitalizing the areas around the church and the swimming areas.

The Green River Crib Dam, Fish Ladder and Swimming Areas

The sediment removal, done last summer, produced a free running fish ladder for the first time in several years, but the large trees resting in the river have changed the waterflow and created two large sand bars. We hope there will be no need for additional silt removal until the summer of 2025, but we will be monitoring the sediment buildup carefully once the trees are removed. For safety, we have rebuilt and reinforced the dam's spillway cover and we will be adding a new section of split rail fencing adjacent to the fish ladder.

Water Testing

In conjunction with the Connecticut River Conservancy, water testing for E. coli bacteria will be done again this summer. (E. coli is an indicator used to determine the risk of contracting serious waterborne illness.) The water is tested every two weeks (from June-August) just below the dam. If unsafe levels of E. coli are found at any time, we will post signs warning against swimming. In addition, the Trust will supplement the testing time intervals to monitor levels and share updated information. The Trust will have to pay for the additional tests.

The Church

It was discovered, last fall, that the stovepipe to the woodstove had begun to rust through in several places causing a potential fire hazard. The Trust has hired a local contractor to replace the stovepipe from the stove in the sanctuary up through the attic and the roof. Again, while this work is necessary it will be a big job and cost approximately \$4,000. In addition, the upper attic floor of the Church will be cleaned and

inventoried with the help of the Guilford Historical Society. The attic area was once used as a private school for local children. And, finally, we will be replacing some or all of the posts adjacent to the stone steps leading to the church.

Signage

Since this is a privately owned area that is used by the public, we have, again, posted signs asking visitors to park only on the east side of River Rd. and to be sure not to block the passage of local traffic and emergency vehicles. Since the area is relatively small and used by many people, additional signs remind swimmers and others that the site is primarily a swimming area, not a park or recreational area, so we ask visitors not to bring lots of equipment or spend hours lounging at the site. Lastly, while we still allow dogs at the site, we ask that they be leashed and under control at all times and please clean up after your dogs.

Green River Meadows

Over the past year, the conserved 17 acres of land known as “Green River Meadows” located 7/10ths of a mile south of the covered bridge, has provided many people with a lovely walking path and access to the river at four separate locations. The Trust, in conjunction with the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) worked hard to conserve the area and, as part of our agreement with the VRC, the Trust will accept the deed to the property in July. In doing so, we will have a strong voice in deciding how the land is used in exchange for providing basic maintenance on the path and river access sites.

Spring 50K run, the D2R2 Cycle Ride, and the Green River Marathon

A small, 50 K run, (32 runners) took place on Sunday, May 21, 2023. This event was organized by the same group that holds the much larger (300 runners) annual New England Green River Marathon.

This year, the New England Green River Marathon will take place on Sunday, August 27.

The Marathon will be preceded by the annual R2D2 bike ride (800 riders) taking place on Saturday, August 19.

To help facilitate a smooth flow of runners and cyclists through the village, the Trust provides these events with logistical support in exchange for an annual donation.

The GRVPT Website

Our much-improved website is up and running and we encourage you to visit the site to check on upcoming events and any closures or other announcements. You can visit the site at

www.greenrivervillage.org

The Green River Carol Sing

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Trust is hoping to, once again, host the popular annual Christmas Carol Sing in December. A final decision will be made in the fall and announced on our website and in our fall newsletter.

Important Note:

This continues to be a very difficult time for the Trust, financially. We anticipate that project costs for the major work that must be done this spring and summer will total more than \$9,000.

The Trust is responsible (physically and financially) for the dam and the fish ladder, as well as all maintenance of the Church, the Village's center triangle, and the land surrounding the Church and the Bridge. **We receive no outside financial assistance from the Town or the State, so we are totally dependent on individual donations to finance these tasks.**

Please help...It takes a lot of time, energy, planning and money for our 11-person board to carry out the required maintenance on the Church, dam, and surrounding grounds. Physical and financial resources are further strained when extraordinary events such as storms and major repair projects arise and demand immediate attention and resources. Your donation of time and money to assist with these projects is critical and much appreciated.

There are two ways to donate:

All donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in writing.

Pay by Check

Make your check payable to GRVPT and send it to:

Lynn Pancake
Treasurer, Green River Village Preservation Trust
1082 Green River Road
Guilford, VT 05301

Pay by Credit Card

Donate using a credit card by visiting our website at www.greenrivervillage.org and follow the DONATE link.

If you are interested in physically helping with some of our many projects, please send a note to Lynn Pancake at the above address.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for a happy summer.

Sincerely,

The Green River Village Preservation Trust Board

Diane Murphy– President; Steve Detra -Vice President; Steve Lembke – Secretary.

Lynn Pancake– Treasurer.

And, Michael Becker; Chris Beebe; Eddie Charbonneau; Brian Link; Gabe Maulucci and Addison Minott

The **Green River Village Preservation Trust** is a recognized non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation of the historical, physical and community resources of Green River Village.