

GREEN RIVER VILLAGE PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 28

Spring/Summer 2022



Dear Neighbors and Friends of Green River,
As we head into the longer, warmer, days of late spring and early summer, we hope this newsletter finds you healthy and cautiously optimistic about spending more time with family and friends, especially outdoors. We are writing to share news of what's happening in Green River and to provide an update on our past fall and winter activities and to share some of the projects we are undertaking this spring and summer.

NEWS FROM GREEN RIVER VILLAGE:

The village has seen a lot of early activity this spring. Due to the May heat wave and despite the cool water temperatures, many hearty souls were swimming at the dam in early May. We are happy to report that leading up to and through a busy Memorial Day weekend, most cars have been parked respectfully and carefully along River Rd. We thank everyone for their cooperation.

Welcome to some new neighbors -- the two village center houses that had been for sale for several months (including the iconic B&B opposite the church) have been sold and the new owners are settling in. The Bridge House was purchased by folks with a tie to a Brattleboro music and performance venue. They plan to continue operating the property as a bed and breakfast establishment as well as offering some small entertainment events throughout the summer. A big Green River welcome to all!

The Green River Crib Dam and Swimming Area

The swimming areas above and below the dam are again open to the public. The parking and area usage signs have been posted and we are hopeful that the overcrowding and road blockages that occurred in the past will be minimal and manageable.

However, two recent incidents have caused us concern. The first involved some painting on the rocks bordering the lower swimming area. The defacing was discovered and removed (at considerable expense and effort) by the Trust and we hope that it will not recur. The second incident involved a friendly but unleashed and out of control dog that ran to and repeatedly jumped on a pregnant woman and her children ultimately knocking them to the ground.

Fortunately, a member of the Trust, who was at the Dam doing routine maintenance, was able to

secure the dog and assist the family. While there were no serious injuries, the incident caused some scrapes and bruises, and the young children were visibly shaken and upset.

Reminder to all dog owners: For safety and liability reasons, all dogs on Trust property must be under control at all times!

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Sediment Problem

Due to Tropical Storm Irene, the continuous upstream erosion and subsequent deposit of silt and debris behind the dam continues to pose a weight impoundment threat to the dam and reduces the area available for swimming. If the silt is not removed on a regular basis, the dam will be threatened, and the entire swimming area will ultimately fill with sediment. The Trust is solely responsible for performing the sediment removal with no assistance from the Town or State. What used to be necessary once every five years, now must be done every two years at a cost of over \$8,000 per occurrence. At that rate, this is a financial burden that will not be sustainable without generous donations from friends and neighbors.

Sediment Removal Schedule

Last summer we closed the swimming area to remove the sediment, but persistent rain and high-water levels made it impossible to complete the project. This year we will try again. We have secured the necessary permits, hired a local contractor and are keeping our fingers crossed for favorable weather. **The project is scheduled to begin the week of July 11 and will require the closing of the dam and swimming areas for approximately eight days.** We will post schedules and closure announcements on our website www.greenrivervillage.org and other public communication sites. We are sorry for any inconvenience, but the sediment removal is necessary to protect the dam and maintain the swimming areas.

The Fish Ladder and Spillway

For the first time in over 20 years, the fish ladder on the west side of the dam was totally blocked by sediment and was not operable all last year. Following the recommendations of fish passage experts from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we will remove part of the west bank to increase river flow to the fish ladder. This bank and brush work will be completed in tandem with the sediment removal this summer. In addition, after draining the water last year, we discovered and successfully repaired a large hole in the westside retaining wall. Also, this year, Trust members will be building and installing a new safety cover for the spillway at the east end of the dam.

The Green River Church

In the fall of 2021, it was discovered that the church's eastern side fascia boards, (where the roof meets the outer walls) had serious rot and deterioration issues that needed to be professionally repaired and painted immediately. After receiving estimates from three local contractors and pursuing and receiving a \$7,000. matching preservation grant from the 1772 Foundation, the church was successfully repaired and repainted and the shade trees were trimmed to allow more sunlight to hit the building. The total cost of these unexpected repairs exceeded \$15,000 which was a major financial hit to our budget. This spring, we discovered some water and rot problems

with the westside “belly boards” that cover the lower sills. We are in the process of assessing the scope of this repair project.

Maintaining a 180-year-old church with a stone foundation is a never ending and expensive job for a volunteer board with limited funding. The Trust is dedicated to preserving the church, the dam, and the surrounding land as long as funds allow. Please do what you can to help us with these efforts.

Green River Meadows

“Green River Meadows”, a 17-acre parcel of land located just south of the Green River covered bridge has been purchased and forever conserved thanks to the combined fundraising efforts of many local residents, multiple state boards, several regional conservation groups, and the Vermont River Conservancy. In 2001, this property was home to one of Vermont’s most infamous junkyards. Now, a lovely trail along the property’s 2300 feet of river frontage and floodplain is open to the public for walking, swimming, fishing, cross country skiing, environmental education sessions and other low impact activities. The remainder of the field is being hayed by a local farmer. Under the formal land management plan, the easement on the property will be jointly held by the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). When possible, it is the policy of these two organizations to award the actual ownership of the conserved property to a local nonprofit organization that shares their spirit of conservation and public access to rivers. To that end, the Trust has been selected by VRC and VHCB to hold the deed to this important piece of property. In return, the Trust will provide oversight and trail maintenance. We are pleased to participate in the preservation of this beautiful southern approach to Green River Village and we hope you will visit the property and walk the trail. The parking area is located 7/10ths of a mile south of the Covered Bridge. The history of the property is explained on the kiosk located at the start of the trail and the river access points are clearly marked.

D2R2 Bike Ride

After 13 consecutive years and a two-year pandemic break, the D2R2 bike ride, sponsored by the Franklin County Land Trust, is back and will be held on Saturday, August 20th. Several hundred riders will, once again, pass through Green River Village as they follow along one of several pre-planned bike routes.

The New England Green River Marathon

The third annual New England Green River Marathon will be held on Sunday, August 28th. Approximately 300 runners will run from the old Marlboro College campus to Greenfield Community College. It is anticipated that all runners will pass through Green River by 10AM. If you would like to volunteer to help with either the bike event or the marathon, please Google their activity names and follow the instructions for volunteers.

Summer Picnic – Mark Your Calendar

Contingent upon weather and the status of Covid issues, the Trust would like to invite you to join us for a country potluck picnic on Sunday, August 21st at noon. Beverages will be provided.

Post-picnic Activities:

Immediately following the picnic, attendees can view a short presentation on the construction of the Green River Crib Dam and the Covered Bridge; take a historical walking tour of Green River Village; and /or take a guided walking tour of the newly conserved Green River Meadows Property. Please join us if you can. Kids are welcome – no dogs please.

Important Note:

While the Town of Guilford maintains the Green River Covered Bridge, the Trust is responsible for all sediment removal behind the dam and the fish ladder as well as all maintenance of the dam, the church, the village center triangle, and the surrounding land. For example, this past summer, we paid \$250.00 to inoculate the stately ash tree, standing on the village triangle, against attack from emerald ash borers. This will also be an on-going expense. We are totally dependent on individual donations to finance these tasks since we receive no outside financial assistance from the Town or the State.

Please help and do know....

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. The board is a true “working” board comprised of 11 volunteers. The only maintenance work that we pay for is bi-weekly lawn mowing. All other routine seasonal chores and DIY projects are performed by board members and others who volunteer to help. It takes a lot of time, energy, planning and money to carry out these duties, and 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. And, if you are interested in physically helping with any 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 joyful and safe summer.

The Green River Village Preservation Trust Board

Diane Murphy – President, Steve Detra -Vice President, Addie Minott– Secretary,
Lynn Pancake – Treasurer and Chris Beebe, Michael Becker, Eddie Charbonneau, Steve Lembke, Brian Link, Gabe Maulucci, and Addison Minott