

GREEN RIVER VILLAGE PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 26

Spring / Summer 2021



Dear Neighbors and Friends of Green River,
We hope this newsletter finds you healthy and enjoying this warmer, brighter, and less Covid restricted time. 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

Village Vitality and Spirit

Over the last year, Green River Village and the surrounding area saw an increase in new and full-time residents, and we are delighted to say that these friends, neighbors and families are contributing mightily to the vitality and energy of the village. There is something about having more kids around that brightens everyone's spirits.

The Green River Crib Dam and Swimming Area Visitors

As Covid restrictions are being lifted in Vermont and throughout New England, our early observation is that we are seeing fewer people parked on local roads and using the swimming area. While still busy and active, the huge influx of people we experienced, at this time last year, appears to be reduced. This lower number of visitors and the signage we implemented to deal with parking problems and overcrowding, seem to be working to provide a more enjoyable and safer experience for all users.

Sediment removal

The continuous erosion of silt and debris from upstream sources means that, this July, we will once again be forced to remove and truck away approximately 1,000 cubic yards of sediment from the mill pond behind the dam. What used to be done once every five years, now must be done every two years at a cost to the Trust in excess of \$8,000 per occurrence. Depending on weather, water levels and contractor scheduling, it is anticipated that this work will begin shortly after the July 4th holiday.

Special Note:

For safety and liability reasons and to comply with the permitting process, the swimming areas must be closed for 3-5 days during the project. We will do our best to post signs and announce the closing dates in advance, but much of the timing is dependent upon weather, water levels and contractor scheduling. Check our website at www.greenrivervillage.org for updates and we ask that you please respect these short-term restrictions.

The Fish Ladder

The fish ladder remains closed due to excessive sediment buildup at the upper mouth. At our request, fish ladder experts from the US Fish and Wildlife Service visited the site and assessed the current situation and provided us with a formal technical memo outlining their suggested short and long-term solutions. The first step is to remove the brushy knob of land just upstream from the fish ladder that is reducing the water flow needed to prevent the sediment buildup. This removal will coincide with the sediment removal project in July and will result in some bank alteration to prevent erosion. All of this comes at an additional cost, but it must be done to try and solve the problems we are experiencing.

Water Testing

Water testing for E. coli bacteria began on June 23rd. (E. coli is an indicator organism used to determine the risk of contracting serious waterborne illness.) The water is tested every two weeks just below the dam. The first round of tests showed E. coli levels well within Vermont and EPA standards for swimming, however, should we find unsafe levels at any time, we will post signs warning against swimming. In addition, we will supplement the testing time intervals to monitor levels and share updated information. The Trust will have to pay for the additional tests.

The Green River Church

The Church's eastern side fascia boards, (where the roof meets the outer walls) has serious rot and deterioration issues that need to be professionally repaired and painted ASAP. We hope the damage is limited to one area, but we are waiting for an inspector's report and the start of construction (in August) to determine the full extent of the damage and the final costs. Cost estimates are in excess of \$15,000 to complete the project. This is another huge hit to the Trust's financial resources. To help offset some of these costs, the Trust applied for and received a \$7,000 Vermont Historic Preservation Matching Grant, which is offered as a collaboration between the 1772 Foundation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont. We are delighted that these organizations share our desire to preserve this 180-year-old iconic building, but we must match the grant amount (dollar for dollar) with donations prior to receiving the funds.

D2R2 Bike Ride

After cancelling last year, the Franklin Land Trust will once again hold its D2R2 bike ride this year on Saturday, August 21st, but on a somewhat reduced scale. Traditionally, over 1000 riders stop for a catered lunch in Green River Village, which can cause substantial traffic and crowding issues for residents and visitors. This year's event will be capped at 750 riders and no formal

lunch event will be offered, which should help reduce the impact on the Village. For the past 13 years, we have worked closely with the Franklin Land Trust to minimize any negative impact, but the area will still be very busy between the hours of 11:00am – 2:00pm on August 21st.

Green River Marathon

The third annual Green River Marathon will be held on Sunday, August 29th.

Capped at 500 runners, this event starts at the former Marlboro College Campus at 7:00am and ends at Greenfield Community College. In doing so, all runners pass directly through the Green River Covered Bridge. In the past, we have helped facilitate traffic flow to minimize any negative impact on residents, runners, and visitors. For the most part, the bulk of the runners will be in small groups and will pass through Green River by 10:30am.

Summary of Proposed Spring / Summer 2021 Special Projects and Events

In addition to the regular maintenance of the Church, dam, and surrounding grounds, the following special projects are planned for 2021.

- Sediment removal will be done at a low water point in July.
- Church roof and fascia board repairs and painting will be completed in August.
- Removal of invasive plants surrounding the upper and lower swimming areas will continue.
- We will begin an annual inoculation of the large, stately ash tree, in the Village triangle, to prevent killing by emerald ash borers. This cost is \$250 per year.
- Help coordinate the D2R2 bike ride and the Green River Marathon to reduce any negative impact on residents and the Village.
- Small trees and brush will be removed adjacent to the lower swimming hole and on the east side of the Church.
- The stone steps to the lower swimming area will be cleaned and re-pointed.
- Our website will be updated and expanded.
- We will continue supporting local land conservation efforts impacting approaches to the Village.

Important Note:

This is a very difficult time for the Trust, financially. We anticipate that project costs for the major work that must be done this summer will total more than \$25,000. The Trust is responsible, (physically and financially) for all sediment removal behind 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; Addie Minott – Secretary.

Lynn Pancake– Treasurer.

And Michael Becker; Chris Beebe; Eddie Charbonneau; Steve Lembke; 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.