This year’s goal - clear all trees from the rail trail

Construction begins on the Squannacook River Rail Trail!

It has been an amazing month for our years-long effort. The past month has been a amazing one for everyone involved with this rail trail. First, we had two extraordinary volunteer days on Oct 19th and Nov 2nd, where over 80 volunteers showed up and did great work installing over a mile of wattles. Then, on Nov. 20th, construction began with the contractor who started clearing the rail trail of trees. They will eventually clear the entire planned rail trail of trees before the construction window closes March 15th.

For those of you who walk the trail, please keep a safe distance from any work areas.

What is the plan for construction of this rail trail?

Squannacook Greenways has decided to take a staged approach to construction of this rail trail. The decision was driven by two factors: 1) our limited Nov - Mar window for construction equipment, 2) large increases in the cost of removing old ties and large decreases in the value of scrap steel. This leaves us with the choice of spending a long time clearing the rail trail this year, which may well take up the rest of the years extra work time. In addition, we will also be creating a focus for town locals to walk the rail trail. To access the site, we will be creating a fence behind Sterilite to ensure users are not tempted to access the rail trail from their shipping area. We will be creating a staging area for the contractor to store their equipment to allow the additional small rail projects in our original capital campaign. However, the rest of the rail trail will be completed after this winter. If you have a concern with this plan, we will address it within our community. We will be applying for MassTrails and other grants to cover the additional costs rail anticipate in our original capital campaign. Below, the plan is described.

Granite pillar and granite bench donation still available

Squannacook Greenways will honor donors of $1000 or more with their names on a granite pillar to be placed along the Squannacook River Rail Trail. Donors of $5000 or more will have their names on a granite bench. These are still available until construction finishes.

Finally - a huge thanks to our many hard-working volunteers!

We are overwhelmed at the great turnout for our two volunteer days this fall and fall. Check out our events page for lots of pictures! We could not have done this without all the hard work of all the volunteers. Thanks again to all of you and welcome to the growing community of rail trail advocates - we are looking forward to meeting you next year!