Lake Winnisquam Scenic Trail Construction Starts This Month!!

With the award of the construction contract to Nelson Communications Services, Inc. (NCS) of Center Conway, a new chapter in the long history of the Winni Trail is about to be written. Many thanks go out to Tim Higginson, PE at Louis Berger Group who guided us through the myriad of regulatory obstacles (don’t get me going about the Northern Long Eared Bat!) as we moved the project through NHDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. A special thanks goes to Tom Jameson, our DOT Project Manager, for his patience and advice. HEB Engineers of North Conway takes on the role of construction engineering to provide oversight and to insure that we get a quality facility. Construction this year is planned to go from an October 20th start date until winding up sometime around Thanksgiving. In 2016, we’ll be looking for completion, sometime around the end of June.

The Trail begins on Leslie E. Roberts Drive near the Belmont Town Beach (see map next page) where there is parking. A wide sidewalk heads into Laconia where next year the WOW Trail will build its next phase. After travelling a short distance up Horse Point Road, the trail heads onto NHDOT conservation land that was originally intended to be the extension of the Laconia By-Pass to I93 and Franklin. After a rolling section through the woods, we turn northward and approach Lake Winnisquam across a parcel purchased with the help of the Conservation Commission, who will manage it. After a quick section along the railroad tracks, we again head inland up and over easements graciously donated to the Town by Sun Lake Village, which provides a beautiful vista along Lake Winnisquam. Sun Lake Village fully understands what an amenity the trail will be for residents of that development. From Sun Lake Village, we head back onto the tracks and travel on top of the Winnipesaukee River Basin Program sewer line, high above the tracks for a cruise along the lake. Turning inland again over the land of Osborne’s Agway we approach the end of this phase of the trail at the Daniel Webster Highway. The Osborne family offered four parking spots for patrons accessing the trail. As we move forward we will work toward the ultimate goal of connecting with the Winnipesaukee River Trail in Tilton. The three trails, each individually managed, will form the Winnipesaukee Trail which ultimately will allow safe travel on foot and by bike from downtown Meredith to the Northern Trail that currently extends from Concord to Lebanon at the Vermont Border.

Come Join Us
FOR A GATHERING OF
CELEBRATION & PLANNING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015 – 7 PM
CORNER MEETING HOUSE
16 SARGENT STREET, BELMONT, NH