



VOL. 20 - NO. 1 SHELburnE FALLS Trolley Museum Newsletter

SPRING 2011

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SHELburnE FALLS & COLRAIN STREET RAILWAY

TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTING

This summer marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum Inc. as a functioning incorporated non-profit organization. The unexpurgated story of events leading up to the founding of SFTM, written by the Founder himself, can be found on Page 3 of this edition. It has been a challenge, albeit an exciting and rewarding one, to nurture SFTM through two decades. Enthusiastic support from our members and volunteers has played a key role in SFTM's being still very much alive today.

TROLLEYFEST – TWO SPECIAL EVENTS

Come and see:

Brian Donelson will be at SFTM to sign autographed copies of his newest book about the favorite shortline railroad of many rail enthusiasts, the legendary Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington Railroad.

Just out is his "The Coming of the Train" - Volume 2. This book is a comprehensive history of the beginning of hydroelectric power on the Deerfield River, and the railroad that made this major construction project possible to do.

Brian's Volume 1 is completely sold out (as of this writing, SFTM still has one for sale - your last chance), and Volume 2 will undoubtedly be on many wish lists. Get your copy, signed by Brian, at SFTM. He is most generously donating part of the proceeds to SFTM.

Come this year for some of our special events which will include a musical performance on the Trolley and an interactive theatrical program on the caboose that is a Civil War tale, based on real events in Western Mass., that take place on a train! A costumed living history educator from the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association of Deerfield will be the presenter of this fun and educational program. We will also have special creative activities for children and live music throughout the day. Don't miss this once in a double-decade day!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As noted elsewhere in the *Transfer*, this is our twentieth year as a museum. This is only our twelfth full season as an *operating*

museum, because we needed those early years to get No. 10 restored and ready to happily haul passengers. Here is what we have been doing to get ready for another safe, exciting and educational season.

Some work and planning has progressed on the House Track, its easternmost 200 feet were torn up last fall and we expect to have it graded to the new grade and to have ties and rail back in place for opening day. Eventually we will need to put turnouts in here, but for now we will put down the switch ties (so we don't have to tear everything up again) and rails to the slightly relocated pump car 'shanty'.

The board decided that changing out the motors on No. 10 could wait until next season because completing the House Track work and being operational for the Art Walk was going to put quite a crunch on our time. No. 10 and the pump car have been given their periodic inspections and maintenance, thanks to Bill Kaiser for help on that task. No problems were found, No. 10's extensive restoration is holding up well. Track Inspector (and returning Director) Tony Jewell has inspected the Main Track and found it ready for another season. Nancy Parland is getting the gardens in shape, if the Bridge of Flowers can put flowers on a trolley bridge, we can put flowers in a freight yard!

The Car barn Fund now stands at over \$15,500, thanks especially to an anonymous \$1000 gift and an anonymous \$2000 gift from folks who obviously feel this project is worthy of significant support. Your donations, large and small, will help to propel this effort along. We have a few minor permitting issues to work out, and then we'll be able to start serious grant applications for the building itself.

Help needed: See <http://www.sftm.org/projects.pdf> for a list of 2011 projects that we could use help with. Or consider that we could use help with repairs on our boom truck, carpentry on the Freight House, painting in many places indoors and out, and track work. Let me know how you'd like to help us, sam@sftm.org or 413-624-0192.

Wish List: We're still looking for one or more picnic tables, used in good condition or new. Also a baby changing table, fold out type, would be nice for one of the restrooms.

Sam
