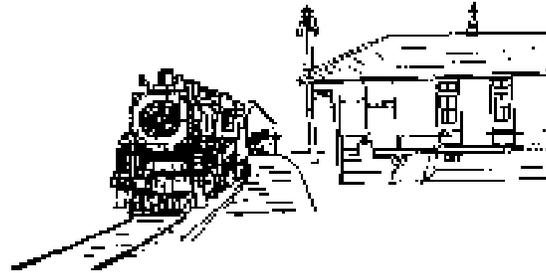


**FRIENDS OF  
BEDFORD DEPOT PARK**



**BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**2005 Annual Report**

Presented at the Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 1, 2005

Bedford Freight House  
120 South Road  
Bedford, Massachusetts



October 1, 2005

Dear Friends:

Welcome members and guests! This is the 11th **Annual Membership Meeting** of Friends of Bedford Depot Park, Incorporated. This meeting is conducted pursuant to Article Seven of the *FBDP Bylaws*, as amended October 4, 1997, and October 2, 2004.

On the next page is a proposed **agenda** for today's meeting. After the reports are given and officers are elected, any other business that is properly presented by members in good standing will be entertained. (See *Miscellaneous New Business*.) Once the business meeting has adjourned, please enjoy a complimentary lunch of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, check on the progress that has been made at Depot Park since our last meeting, and visit the Freight House store.

Sincerely,

Jim Shea  
President

# **2005 Annual Meeting**

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to order of the business portion of the meeting
2. Oral Reports and Updates:
  - a. President
  - b. Treasurer
  - c. Clerk
  - d. Excursions Committee
  - e. Hobby Shows Committee
  - f. others?
3. Election of officers: clerk, treasurer, vice president and president
4. Miscellaneous new business
5. Adjourn

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# **Report of the President**

**by James A. Shea**

## **Depot Park Progress**

It is satisfying to see the site work finished at Depot Park and this new facility receiving frequent use by the public. The improvements here have become a catalyst for other property upgrades in the vicinity. Now our attention has turned to completion of the two remaining project phases: the restoration of Rail Diesel Car 6211 and renovation of the Freight House.

In July, the Freight House architectural plans were submitted to the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) for final review. These plans encompass exterior renovations to the building and a public restroom addition at the rear. According to DPW Director Richard Warrington, the state expects to advertise the project for bid in early December 2005. The project's estimated cost is about \$325,000, and is funded by the federal and state Transportation Enhancement Program.

Interior renovations to the building will be carried out separately by the Town using money from the Depot Park Revolving Fund. The Depot Park Advisory Committee is working with the Bedford Facilities Department to prepare for this project phase that will follow the exterior work.

## **Project 6211**

The DPW is overseeing the rehabilitation of RDC 6211 with help from consultant Dan O'Brien. Thus far, new windows have been procured, the old seat frames and cushions have been sent out for refurbishment, and a contractor has been hired to provide environmental remediation services (i.e., removal of hazardous materials). After the environmental work is done, interior painting, HVAC installation and electrical work may proceed. If all goes well, perhaps we can hold the 2006 Annual Meeting inside the car.

## **Oral History Recording Project**

FBDP has an ongoing project to record the oral histories of people who either worked on the local railroad or who have interesting recollections about it to share. The late Ralph Fisher, a brakeman on the BB Local during the late 1940s and early '50s, was our first subject in the spring of 2004. Since then, two additional subjects have been interviewed on camera: retired B&M conductor Edward McHugh and former Lexington Branch conductor Robert Howe.

Recordings are made on digital (Sony DVCAM) videotape. Excerpts are published in the newsletter and posted on our web site. I expect we'll have the opportunity to collect more oral histories in the months and years ahead.

## **Two-Foot-Gauge Track Project**

Since 2003, foreman Thomas Dickey has led volunteers in building a segment of two-foot-gauge track along the Billerica & Bedford Railroad's original right-of-way between Loomis Street and The Great Road. About 600 feet of track have been installed so far, approximately half of the maximum length. Workers for the past year have been: David Buczkowski, Jean Paul Capistran, Earl Dickey, Thomas Dickey, John Filios, David McKenzie, John Metzger, Barry Sampson, James Shea, and Edward Stickney.

This B&B track serves primarily as an historical exhibit. People who see the track have come to the Freight House to learn about its meaning and, in the process, become aware of the history of the country's first two-foot-gauge railway. The track may also be used for "live steam" special events similar to the one held here in 2002 with the Maine Narrow-Gauge Railroad.

This project was funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiast's H. Albert Webb Memorial Railroad Preservation Award and \$2,000 from the Amherst Railway Society. FBDP has contributed additional money to the undertaking.

Ed Stickney designed a bronze plaque that will be placed near the track. It explains the track's purpose and imparts some history about the old right-of-way. The Bedford Historic Preservation Commission contributed the funds to buy the plaque. FBDP will purchase the granite base that it will be mounted upon.

## **Depot Park Revolving Fund**

At Annual Town Meeting in March, voters approved an article to sustain a revolving fund for Depot Park. This account is under the control of the Selectmen and is intended for Depot Park expenses and future enhancements. The fund's income comes from rent collected from Depot tenants and proceeds from the sale of food items at the Freight House. As of September 21, 2005, the fund's balance is \$63,860.51.

In January 2005, FBDP conveyed **\$5,188.04** to the fund. This figure represents the profits (minus related expenses) from Freight House food sales during the year 2004. Thus far this year, we have raised approximately \$3,470 for the account. Since opening the Freight House in August 2005, our total contributions have reached \$22,385.57.

## **Newsletter**

In addition to serving as president, I am editor of the organization's newsletter, *Bedford Depot News*. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep members informed about the Depot Park project and FBDP, and to share interesting articles and research about our local railroad history. Ten more issues were published since our 2004 Annual Meeting. This brings the total count to 122 issues since the first one in March 1995.

Thanks to George Dalrymple, Ed Stickney, and Barry and Lucille Sampson, for their valuable

help mailing the issues, and Margaret Leary for proofreading some of the articles.

### **Web Site**

FBDP's web site ([www.BedfordDepot.org](http://www.BedfordDepot.org)) continues to be an important way for to stay in touch with members and to communicate with people around the world who are interested in the Friends, rail-trails, and local railroad history. The site was upgraded this year to include a shopping cart system to sell FBDP's merchandise, a message board for members, additional multimedia such as oral history videos, and a user-editable Freight House clerk schedule. The site has logged over 6,200 visitors since January 8, 2005.

### **Bedford Depot Park Advisory Committee**

The Selectmen established a committee in July 2004 to advise them on matters concerning Depot Park, its remaining construction phases, rental of the Railroad Station, and the Revolving Fund. Former Selectman Joseph Piantedosi and I were appointed as citizen members. Ex-officio committee members are Town Administrator Rick Reed, DPW Director Richard Warrington, Facilities Director Richard Jones, and Selectman Angelo Colao.

The committee has had 10 meetings over the past 12 months. The approved minutes of these meetings are posted on FBDP's web site.

### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors is comprised of the three elected officers plus a representative of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (Ray Ruetenik), the Historic Preservation Commission (Neil Leary) and the Chamber of Commerce (John Filios). The Board of Directors met 12 times during the past year to conduct long-term planning and to oversee FBDP's financial and legal affairs. The approved minutes of these meetings are posted on FBDP's web site.

### **Freight House**

The success of the Freight House is reflected by the fact that 8,846 sales orders were transacted there during the past nine months. A total of 35,954 sales orders have been transacted since the establishment opened in August 2000. **Year-to-date gross sales** (including hobby show and mail order sales) total \$21,152.76. These are impressive figures for a small operation that is usually open only on weekends.

The Freight House is staffed by volunteer clerks. These are the people who have helped keep the Freight House open during the past 12 months: George Dalrymple, Betty Foley, Neil Leary, Brooke Moncrieff, Michael Prescott, Barry Sampson, Bob Slechta, Ed Stickney, Holly Webster, and yours truly. Ed Stickney opened the Freight House on Wednesday afternoons between late May and early September as an added public service. George Dalrymple occasionally operated the establishment on Friday afternoons during the summer.

*We're glad to have this help—but there are times when we have to close the Freight House because no one has signed up to cover a given shift. If you are not currently a volunteer, would you consider lending a hand? We'll train you in the basic skills of using the cash register and other aspects of the operation. Shifts are either usually three hours in length.*

In addition to selling food items and FBDP merchandise, we invite other Bedford non-profit historical groups to place their fund-raising items “on consignment” at the Freight House store. Merchandise from the Bedford Historical Society, Friends of the Bedford Flag, the Bedford Minutemen Company, Friends of Job Lane House, Bedford Women’s Community Club, and the Bedford Library Corporation enhances the “Bedford flavor” of the establishment. We turn over 100% of the sales proceeds to these participating groups. In return, we request that they help behind the sales counter. So far this year, \$1,077.50 in merchandise has been sold on behalf of these Bedford non-profits.

*Freight House year-to-date sales data appear on page 15 of this report.*

It will be necessary to suspend our activities at the Freight House once building renovations begin. DPW Director Richard Warrington forecasts that the state will begin this work sometime during the first quarter of 2006. If this is so, we ought to be able to continue Freight House operations through the upcoming holiday season, and then shut down. The directors will consider different options for storage of our belongings while the building improvements are being made.

### **Merchandise Produced by FBDP**

Member John M. Boardman has generously loaned FBDP many reels of 16 mm. film that he shot of New England railroading during the 1950s, '60s, '70s and early '80s. We have produced three videos from these films to sell as fund-raisers. Proceeds from *Volumes One, Two and Three* have supported important FBDP activities. *Volume Four* is now in production for a planned November release. It will be sold at the Freight House, through our web site, and at select retailers.

Barry Sampson is working on the creation of a Minuteman Bikeway cloth cap that will be sold at the Freight House.

### **Excursions**

Neil Leary resigned his post as chair of the Excursions Committee. This position is now open to any member. Please contact me if you are interested in planning an annual outing for the Friends. Neil has offered to help his successor during the transition phase. We thank him for all the trips that he planned over the past several years.

Barry Sampson stepped in to coordinate an excursion to the Norman Rockwell Museum and the Berkshire Scenic Railroad on September 25. This trip was a success with 48 attendees.

## **Special Committees**

Under Article 6 of FBBDP's Bylaws, the president may appoint members to "special committees" and "task forces" for a term of up to one year for the purpose of carrying out specific tasks. A short description and the membership of each special committee or task force follows.

David Buczkowski, Jean Paul Capistran, Neal Caswell, Earl Dickey, Thomas Dickey, John Filios, Stephen Healy, Neil Leary, David McKenzie, William Marsh, John Metzger, Barry Sampson, James Shea, and Edward Stickney are appointed to the **Narrow-Gauge Track Task Force**. This group's purpose is to install the Billerica & Bedford Railroad two-foot-gauge interpretive track. Thomas Dickey is the foreman.

Barry Sampson is appointed to the **Hobby Show Committee**. The committee's purpose is to coordinate FBBDP's attendance at shows and exhibits where our merchandise may be sold.

# **Membership Report of the Clerk**

**by Edward C. Stickney**

## **Memberships (As of September 30, 2005)**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Individual	59
Family	51
Senior/Individual	48
Senior/Family	16
Lifetime Individual	24
Lifetime Family	15
Lifetime Senior/Individual	24
Lifetime Senior/Family	8
<b>Total number of members</b>	<b>335</b>

## **New Activity (January 1, through September 30, 2005)**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
New Memberships	8
Renewals	87
Membership Upgrades	1

# **Financial Report of the Treasurer**

**by George F. Dalrymple**

FBDP's fiscal year follows a calendar year basis (January 1 to December 31). The Financial Report appears on pages 12 and 13.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
1											
2				<b>Treasurer's Annual Meeting Report 2005</b>							
3											
4						<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Disbursements</b>			
5											
6				Primary Checking, Balance January 1, 2005						11,007.49	
7				B&B Checking, Balance January 1, 2005						1,799.00	
8				Life Membership CD						1,248.00	
9										14,054.49	
10				<b>Freight House</b>							
11				<b>Town</b>							
12				Snacks		1,812.95		369.98			
13				Hot Food		469.16		206.27			
14				Ice Cream		1,452.83		695.03			
15				Cold Beverages		4,733.44		2,347.86			
16				Hot Beverages		104.60		289.26			
17				Expenses				682.90			
18				Town				5,212.52	1		
19										-1,230.84	
20				<b>Consignment</b>							
21				Bedford Historical Society		502.40		563.15	2		
22				Friends of Job Lane House		19.50		53.23	2		
23				Friends of Bedford Flag		241.50		384.25	2		
24				Bedford Minuteman Company		313.00		555.25	2		
25				Bedford Library Corporation		10.00		25.00	2		
26				Public Ceremony Committee		0.00		29.00	2		
27				Bedford Woman Club		4.00		20.00	2		
28										-539.48	
29				<b>Friends of Bedford Depot Park</b>							
30				Sales		9,726.61					
31				eBay fees				124.93			
32				Purchased Merchandise				1,948.92			
33				Video Production				2.78			
34				Donations		662.89					
35										8,312.87	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
36				<b>General</b>						
37				Advertising				101.26		
38				Hobby Shows				423.96		
39				Excursion		1,485.00				
40				Bank		28.59	3			
41				Credit cards				374.10		
42				Credit cards, discount				150.80	4	
43				Delta Starting Change				6.66		
44				Variance		29.05				
45										485.86
46				<b>Taxes</b>						
47				Sales		360.24		403.65	2	
48				Meals		27.04		24.36	5	
49										-40.73
50				<b>Friends of Bedford Depot Park</b>						
51				Dues		1,715.00				
52				Preservation Fund				46.94		
53				Newsletter				524.92		
54				Internet / web site				422.69		
55				IT Equipment				2,083.24		
56				Meetings				4.99		
57				Equipment & Displays				67.77		
58				Office				230.35		
59				Miscellaneous		87.08				
60										-1,578.82
61				<b>Interpretative Track</b>						
62				Materials				335.39		
63				Expenses				158.80		
64										-494.19
65										
66				<b>Totals</b>						4,914.67
67										
68				<b>Totals</b>						18,969.16
69										
70				Primary Checking, Balance September 23, 2005						15,922.16
71				B&B Checking, Balance August 31, 2005						1,799.00
72				Life Membership CD						1,248.00
73				<b>Totals</b>						18,969.16
74										
75										
76	1			2004 Payment	4					Includes reimbursements
77	2			July 04 - June 05 Payments	5					December 04 - August 05 Payments
78	3			CD Interest						

# **Report of the Hobby Show Committee**

**by Barry E. Sampson**

## **Shows that FBBDP has attended since the 2004 Annual Meeting (10/02/04 – 9/30/05):**

Amherst Big Railroad Hobby Show • West Springfield, Massachusetts

Gross sales: \$ 2242.15

Mystic Valley Railway Society Show • Foxboro, Massachusetts

Gross sales: \$ 785.47 (2 shows)

Nashua Valley Railroad Association Show • Bolton, Massachusetts

Gross Sales: \$470.47

North Shore Model Railroad Club Show • Wakefield, Massachusetts

Gross sales: \$ 379.54

South Shore Model Railroad Club Show • Weymouth, Massachusetts

Gross sales: \$ 535.60

Maine Two-Footer Railroad Show • Taunton, Massachusetts

Gross sales: \$ 228.26

Bedford Day • Bedford, Massachusetts

Gross sales: \$ 157.06

Total gross sales from above shows: \$ 4,798.55

## **Upcoming shows that FBBDP plans to attend in the next 12 months:**

- Amherst Big Railroad Hobby Show • West Springfield, Massachusetts • January 2006
- Mystic Valley Railway Society Show • Foxboro, Massachusetts • February 2006
- South Shore Model Railroad Show • Weymouth, Massachusetts • March 2006
- Nashua Valley Railroad Association Show • Bolton, Massachusetts • April 2006

# Freight House Year-to-Date Sales Report

January 1 — August 31, 2005

by James A. Shea

## Gross Sales\*

Food.....	\$ 7,457.53
FBDP Merchandise.....	9,236.16
Charitable Contributions.....	766.07
Membership Dues.....	1,490.00
Excursion Fares.....	990.00
Non-Profit Consignments.....	1,077.50
Total Gross Sales.....	21,017.76

## Gross Profits\*

Food (Town Revolving Fund).....	\$ 3,470.50
FBDP Merchandise.....	5,887.12

*\* Includes revenues collected from external sales events (e.g., hobby shows, Bedford Day) and mail orders;*

*Since January 1, 2004, all charitable contributions and membership dues have been rung in at the Freight House cash register.*