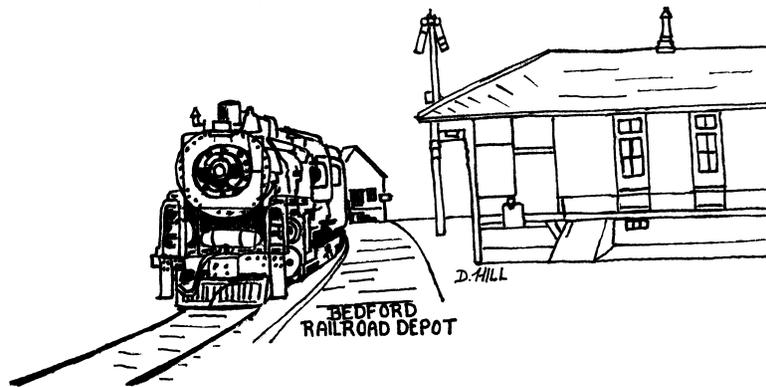


**FRIENDS OF
BEDFORD DEPOT PARK, INC.**



2006 ANNUAL REPORT

**Presented at the Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 14, 2006**

**Bedford Public Library
7 Mudge Way
Bedford, Massachusetts**

October 14, 2006

Dear Friends:

Welcome members and guests. This is the 12th **Annual 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 officer and committee reports are given, any other business that is properly presented by members in good standing will be entertained. (See *Miscellaneous New Business*.) After the business portion of the meeting, we will preview scenes from the upcoming Volume Five of *The Films of John M. Boardman*—and meet the man behind the lens, John Boardman!

Sincerely,

Jim Shea
President

**2006 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. Hobby Show Committee
 - e. others?
3. Miscellaneous new business
4. Entertainment: Preview of *The Films of John M. Boardman, Volume Five*
5. Adjourn

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Report of the President

by James A. Shea

Depot Park Progress

The site work at Depot Park has now been complete for over two years. The facility has become a valued community asset and appreciated by many rail-trail users. The site improvements have become a catalyst for other property upgrades in the area. The Bedford Planning Board has taken note of the positive impact of Depot Park, too. Last spring, they sponsored a Town Meeting article to rezone the Depot Park area for mixed-use development. This article was passed handily by voters.

Our attention continues to focus on completion of two remaining Depot Park project phases: the restoration of Rail Diesel Car 6211 and renovation of the Freight House. Recently, a third project phase has appeared on the horizon—possible restoration of the Railroad Station building.

Freight House Renovation

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) is responsible for exterior renovation of the Freight House and a public restrooms addition at the rear of the building. According to DPW Director Richard Warrington, the state expects to open bids in late November/early December. The estimated cost of this MHD project is \$372,457. Funding is provided by the federal and state Transportation Enhancement Program.

Interior renovations to the Freight House are to be carried out separately by the Town using money from the Depot Park Revolving Fund. The Bedford Facilities Department has already performed demolition of the building's first floor interior and made some necessary structural improvements. Once all the work is finished, the Freight House will better resemble its original railroad appearance on the outside while accommodating improved public usage on the inside.

Rail Diesel Car 6211

The DPW is directing the rehabilitation of ex-Boston & Maine RDC 6211 with valuable help from consultant Dan O'Brien. Since the last Annual Report, the DPW's contractors have performed environmental remediation services (i.e., removal of hazardous materials), installed new windows, sealed and painted the roof, started work on a new electrical system, and installed a new HVAC system. Interior painting and floor installation are projected to be the next tasks.

Certain smaller tasks have been identified that may be handled by volunteers. No special skills are required to help. Visit the "Project 6211" page of FBDP's web site to learn more. Join the Project 6211 mailing list to be notified of volunteer sessions: FBDP@BedfordDepot.org

Thanks to an \$800.00 donation from the Amherst Railway Society, we will be able to establish displays inside #6211's baggage compartment to highlight local railroad history.

Railroad Station Restoration

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) awarded Bedford a \$24,000 matching grant to perform an architectural study of the old Boston & Maine Railroad passenger station on Loomis Street. This money was augmented by \$16,000 in Community Preservation funds that were appropriated at the 2006 Annual Town Meeting.

The study is to examine the heritage of the building and detail its present interior and exterior conditions. Schematic drawings and cost estimates for possible future renovations would also be prepared. Recently, the Selectmen appointed a Designer Selection Committee to choose one of the architectural firms that has submitted a proposal to do this work.

Depot Park Revolving Fund

At Annual Town Meeting in March, voters approved an article to continue 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 was \$63,860.51. One year later, the balance is \$73,601.31.

In January 2006, FBBDP conveyed **\$4,052.90** to the fund. This figure represents the profits (minus related expenses) from Freight House food sales during 2005. The amount raised this year will be quite minimal due to the closure of the Freight House. Since opening the Freight House in August 2000, our total contributions have reached \$26,438.47.

Freight House Operations

The Freight House has been a successful enterprise—whether measured monetarily or by the sheer number of people who have visited it—since its opening in August 2000. We gratefully acknowledge the volunteer clerks who helped operate the Freight House on weekends between October 2005 and the establishment's closing in early January: George Dalrymple, Neil Leary, Patricia Lieby, Barry Sampson, Bob Slechta, Ed Stickney, Holly Webster, Lee and Althea Yates, and yours truly.

In addition to selling food items and FBBDP merchandise, the merchandise of other Bedford non-profit groups was placed "on consignment" at the Freight House store. These groups are 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. For the three months leading up to the Freight House's closing, \$460.90 in merchandise was sold on behalf of these Bedford non-profits.

A summary of Freight House sales figures appears on page 14.

As we await completion of Freight House renovations, the directors will consider ways to improve the establishment's hours of operation when it reopens. One possibility is to hire part-time help.

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. In July, an interview with John F. Brown was videotaped and added to FBDP's collection of seven other subjects. Mr. Brown spoke of his memories of Shady Hill Station on the Reformatory Branch.

Sections of these oral history recordings are transcribed for publication in the newsletter. Video excerpts are also posted on the web site. I look forward to collecting more oral histories in the months and years ahead.

Newsletter

The purpose of the *Bedford Depot News* newsletter is to keep members informed about the Depot Park project and FBDP, to share interesting articles and research about our local railroad history, and to publish news about local rail-trails. Eight more issues were published during the past 12 months. This brings the total count to 130 issues since the first one in March 1995.

We give special thanks to George Dalrymple for collating, folding and mailing each issue. As always, your content submissions, research articles, photographs and personal recollections are welcomed.

Web Site

FBDP's web site (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 last year to include a shopping cart system to sell FBDP's merchandise. This feature has proven to be especially valuable since the closing of the Freight House.

Additional multimedia contains to be added to the site such as oral history videos. The web site has logged over 6,200 visitors between January 8 and September 30, 2005—plus an additional 8,370 visitors over the last 12 months. This amounts to about 23 visitors per day.

As time permits, your "web master" plans to redesign the web site for a more uniform appearance and easier navigation among its various sections. The site will continue in its existing format until the new layout is ready to be launched.

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.

On July 7, the directors appointed John Caban, Eric Michelson and Neil Leary to an **Audit Committee**. This committee was charged with reviewing the Treasurer's financial records for FY 2005 and FBDP's general accounting practices. The Audit Committee's report appears on page 15.

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, Three* and *Four* have supported important FBDP activities. *Volume Five* is now in production for a planned November release. It will be sold through our web site and at select retailers.

In August, we had transferred to videotape the remaining seven reels of Mr. Boardman's 16 mm. railroad films. This footage will yield content for the final two volumes in the series.

Special Committees

Under Article 6 of FBDP'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 (foreman), 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. They have installed approximately 580 linear feet of track.

Barry Sampson is appointed to the **Hobby Show Committee**. The committee's purpose is to coordinate FBDP's attendance at shows and exhibits where our merchandise may be sold. Barry Sampson was assisted by George Dalrymple at several hobby shows during the past 12 months. This committee needs at least one additional participant. Please let us know if you're interested.

In 2004, Neil Leary resigned his post on the **Excursions Committee**. This position remains open to any member. Please contact us if you are interested in planning an outing for the Friends. Neil has offered to help his successor get “up to speed” and share his experience.

As an excursion coordinator, you will identify possible trip destinations, book the arrangements, determine fares, handle publicity, and oversee the general operation of the outing. The convention is for FBBDP to sponsor one excursion per year.

Historical Accessions

Several valuable documents, photographs and artifacts were added to the archives to enhance our understanding of local railroad history. Using a portion of the “Preservation Fund” contributions received from members, we purchased a set of eight vintage postcards of stations on the Lexington and Reformatory Branches. These rare images were published in the newsletter.

Special recognition goes to Alan E. MacMillan for donating a variety of Boston & Maine documents and photos. Many of these items pertain to the B&M’s former fleet of Rail Diesel Cars. We plan to display several of Mr. MacMillan’s artifacts inside RDC 6211 after its renovations are completed.

Membership Report of the Clerk

by Edward C. Stickney

Memberships (As of September 30, 2006)

Classification	Enrollment
Individual	57
Family	68
Senior/Individual	42
Senior/Family	30
Lifetime Individual	26
Lifetime Family	34
Lifetime Senior/Individual	27
Lifetime Senior/Family	20
Total number of members	304

New Activity (January 1, through September 30, 2006)

Classification	Enrollment
New Memberships	2
Renewals	86
Membership Upgrades	2

Financial Report of the Treasurer

by George F. Dalrymple

FBDP's fiscal year follows a calendar year basis (January 1 to December 31). However, the Financial Report that appears on pages 12 and 13 is for the period September 23, 2005, through September 24, 2006.

Freight House Sales Report
October 1, 2005 — September 30, 2006
by James A. Shea

Gross Sales Income*

Food.....	\$ 871.36
FBDP Merchandise.....	7,191.75
Shipping.....	125.14
Charitable Contributions.....	728.61
Membership Dues.....	2,385.00
Excursion Fares.....	0.00
Non-Profit Consignments.....	460.90
 Total Gross Sales.....	 11,762.76

Gross Profits*

Food (Town Revolving Fund).....	\$ 142.27
FBDP Merchandise.....	4,554.70
 Total Gross Profits.....	 4,696.97

* 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.

Audit Committee Report

October 6, 2006

The Board of Directors appointed an independent committee of qualified individuals to serve on the audit committee and perform a review of the organization's financial records for the calendar year 2005.

The committee met on September 18, 2006, at the Bedford Public Library to perform the review. The independent members of the committee were John Caban of Bedford, Massachusetts, and Eric Michelson of Lexington, Massachusetts. George Dalrymple, Treasurer of the FBDP, and Neil Leary, a Director of the FBDP, assisted in the review.

The Treasurer provided a financial report for the year and made available all records and reports of revenues and expenses of the organization for the calendar year 2005. The committee reviewed the treasurer's records and reports. Payments were compared with invoices. Income was properly deposited in FBDP accounts. Grants and restricted donations were properly recorded and segregated. It was verified that sales taxes had been paid and disbursements were properly made to the town of Bedford and nonprofit organizations.

The committee concluded that the organization's financial records and reports have been adequately prepared and accurately maintained for the calendar year 2005. One minor discrepancy was noted that involved a purchase order that was dated in January for an invoice that was received in December. Purchase orders should be prepared in advance. Another recommendation of the committee was that in order to evaluate the results of projects, their expenses and revenues should be segregated in a separate ledger account.

Submitted by,

Neil M. Leary