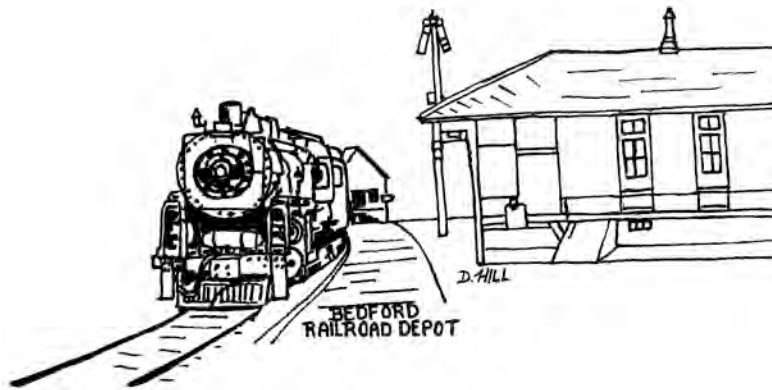


**FRIENDS OF
BEDFORD DEPOT PARK, INC.**



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

**Presented at the Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 3, 2009**

**Rail Diesel Car 6211
Bedford Depot Park
Bedford, Massachusetts**

October 3, 2009

Dear Friends:

Welcome members and guests to the 15th **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, **officer elections** will be conducted. Then, 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 hear from member William Patton about his memories of working as a B&M station agent on the Lexington Branch. Also, we'll see and learn about a model of the narrow-gauge Billerica & Bedford Railroad that was built by member Arthur Ellis.

This Annual Meeting marks the retirement of George Dalrymple as FBDP's treasurer. The directors thank George for his years of service to the organization.

Please take an opportunity to visit the recently renovated Freight House after the meeting!

Sincerely,

Jim Shea
President

**2009 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. MacLean Model Railroad Committee
 - f. other?
3. Officer Elections:
 - a. President
 - b. Clerk
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Vice President
4. Miscellaneous new business
5. Entertainment:
 - a. Arthur Ellis: Model of narrow-gauge Billerica & Bedford Railroad
 - b. William Patton: *Memories of a B&M Station Agent*
6. Adjourn

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Treasurer’s Financial Report .10.....

Report of Freight House, Online Store and Mail Order Sales .13.....

Hobby Show Committee Report .14.....

Report of the President

by James A. Shea

Depot Park Progress

A long, 15-year journey to establish Bedford Depot Park reached a conclusion in 2009. On June 15, the Town of Bedford held a public reception at Depot Park to mark extensive renovations that were made to the Freight House building and ex-B&M Budd Rail Diesel Car 6211. These projects are joined by prior completion of the Depot Park site work in 2003 and reconstruction of the adjacent South Road/Railroad Avenue/Loomis Street intersection in 2005.

This comprehensive project was made possible by the Federal and state governments' Transportation Enhancement Program, the Federal Highway Administration, the Massachusetts Highway Department and the Town of Bedford. Special credit goes to the early advocates of the Depot Park project: former Selectman Joseph Piantedosi, DPW Director Richard Warrington, Jan van Steenwijk of the Chamber of Commerce—and of course, the members of FBDP!

Freight House Reopening

The Freight House resumed its service to the Minuteman Bikeway and the local community on June 15. For 2009, it is scheduled to be open on weekends between 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Closing time in November and December is to be 5:00 P.M. The Freight House has opened on an ad-hoc basis during Farmers' Market at Depot Park on Monday afternoons.

In July, FBDP hired a part-time cashier to cover half the hours of operation on weekends through October 31. We are seeking **volunteer cashiers** to help provide coverage during November and December, a time of the year when holiday gift sales are our focus. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Jim Shea for more information.

We thank Richard Michelson and the Bedford Facilities Department for storing the Freight House contents while the building was closed for renovations.

Rail Diesel Car 6211

Through the persistent efforts of consultant Dan O'Brien, the Department of Public Works and volunteers from the Friends, a myriad of renovations to Rail Diesel Car 6211 were completed ahead of the June 15th Depot Park "ribbon cutting" ceremony. Enlargements of historic Budd RDC trade magazine ads, funded in part by the Amherst Railway Society, were mounted on walls inside the car. Three display cases were placed in the baggage room. Two of them contain artifacts that pertain to the local railroad and #6211. A third case, donated by

Donald Corey, is to present items about the town's history. The Bedford Historical Society is assembling this display.

Number 6211 is normally open for the public to visit at times when the Freight House is open. Also, people may rent the car for their private meetings, functions and festivities by contacting the Town Center at 781-275-4880. Proceeds are used to help pay for the RDC's upkeep and utility expenses.

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, proceeds from Freight House food sales, and rentals of RDC 6211. The fund's current balance is approximately \$44,000. The Revolving Fund was used to purchase new appliances that are at the Freight House.

Merchandise Sales

Sales of goods—literature, videos and apparel—are an essential method for raising the money that FBDP needs to operate. For the past three years, sales were restricted to those from our online store (www.BedfordDepot.org/store) and hobby shows. The reopening of the Freight House ought to bolster gross revenues. Income has not yet reached the levels it achieved prior to the building's closing in 2006; but the trend looks promising despite a poor economy.

Proceeds from food sales at the Freight House (e.g., snacks and beverages) are given to the Town at the close of the calendar year for the Depot Park Revolving Fund. This money helps pay for the capital, maintenance and utility expenses of the Depot Park complex.

Merchandise from the Bedford Historical Society, Friends of the Bedford Flag and the Bedford Minuteman Company is sold on a consignment basis at the Freight House. FBDP retains 15% of each sale to help pay for our labor and credit card processing costs.

A summary of sales figures for the past 12 months appears on page 13.

Merchandise Produced by FBDP

The final volume of our *Films of John M. Boardman* DVD series was produced last fall. To date, 57 units of *Volume Seven* have been sold. Another 34 of these DVDs must be sold at retail price before we break even on this item.

This Board of Directors is considering production of a comprehensive book about the Billerica & Bedford Railroad as a future FBDP product. Also, member William Patton has suggested that we make and sell of book of essays about the local railroad.

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. Four more issues were published during the past year at a cost of approximately \$1,700 for printing and postage.

The next issue is planned for December. It is to include the start of a new series by William Patton about the life and times of a Lexington Branch station agent.

Thanks to Paul Callahan, Donald Corey, William Patton, Wayne Perry and Richard Symmes for their recent content submissions—and to George Dalrymple for collating, folding and mailing each issue. As always, your letters and articles are welcomed.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of the three elected officers plus a representative of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (open seat), the Historic Preservation Commission (Neil Leary) and the Chamber of Commerce (open seat). Jim Shea is the chairman and George Dalrymple is the secretary. The Board of Directors met four 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.

In August 2008, the Board directed that an annual audit be made of FBDP's finances. John Caban and Eric Michelson were appointed by the Board as auditors. The treasurer has not yet prepared for the audit.

Billerica & Bedford Railroad Interpretive Track

In July, FBDP received an \$845 donation from the Amherst Railway Society to support installation of a descriptive plaque adjacent to the Billerica & Bedford Railroad interpretive track. This bronze sign was created several years ago for FBDP through the work of Edward Stickney. The total cost for purchasing a granite block, attaching the plaque to it, and installing the complete unit is approximately \$1,700.

At its September 11th meeting, the Board of Directors received word of an anonymous donation of \$200 towards this project. The directors voted to appropriate the additional funds necessary to complete the B&B signage project.

Neil Leary indicated that the Bedford Historic Preservation Commission might be interested in coordinating installation of the descriptive plaque. The directors voted to convey the plaque and granite block to the HPC contingent upon the HPC's willingness to accept and install it.

In late September, Barry Sampson donated \$100 in support of this project.

Special Committees

Under Article 6 of the 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 brief description and the membership of each special committee or task force follows.

Barry Sampson is appointed to the **Hobby Show Committee**. The committee’s purpose is to represent FBBDP at shows and exhibits where our merchandise may be sold. George Dalrymple has assisted at these events. Barry Sampson welcomes your participation at future shows. Please let him know if you are interested. See this Committee’s report on page 14.

Arthur Ellis is appointed to the **MacLean Model Railroad Committee**. The committee’s purpose is to restore and install an HO-scale model railroad layout of Bedford inside the Freight House. This layout was donated to FBBDP in 2002 by the family of the late Donald MacLean. Arthur is being assisted by Chase Green, Patricia Kendra, Paul Kendra, Garo Khatcherian, Dick Koolish, David Shamlian and Claudio Topolcic.

The post of **Excursions Coordinator** remains open. Although railroad trips are not the core mission of FBBDP, members enjoyed past outings that were arranged by Neil Leary. 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.” As the Excursions Coordinator, you would identify possible trip destinations, book the arrangements, determine fares, handle publicity, and oversee the general operation of the outing.

Future Goals

We succeeded in accomplishing a tremendous effort in only a few days to reopen the Freight House for the Town’s “ribbon cutting” ceremony on June 15. Still, much work remains to be done to return the operation to the state it was in before building closed for renovations. The second floor storage area, in particular, needs to be organized after the Town finishes a rehab of this space. There are historical items to be unpacked and exhibited.

Vinyl wall posters about the history of the Lexington Branch and RDC 6211 are planned for the railroad car’s baggage room. We intend to tackle the project over the winter months. Printing of these displays would be paid for by FBBDP, its member donations and a previous grant from the Amherst Railway Society.

Members are invited to help us catalog and organize the array of historical documents and artifacts in FBBDP’s collection. Please contact Jim Shea for more information.

Membership Report of the Clerk

by Edward C. Stickney

Memberships (as of September 30, 2009)

Classification	Enrollment
Individual	33
Family	36
Senior/Individual	30
Senior/Family	32
Lifetime Individual	26
Lifetime Family	44
Lifetime Senior/Individual	28
Lifetime Senior/Family	20
Total number of members	249

New Activity (January 1 through September 30, 2009)

Classification	Enrollment
New Memberships	1
Renewals	66
Membership Upgrades	2

Financial Report of the Treasurer

by George F. Dalrymple

FBDP's fiscal year is on a calendar year basis (January 1 to December 31). The treasurer's financial report appears on the next two pages.

Annual Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2009

Citizen's Bank Checking Account
Bank Register CASH Balances

(as of September 1, 2009)

\$7,847.14

	Receipts	¹ Payments	Category cash flow
Revolving Fund			
Snacks	753.61	909.59	
Hot Food	247.56	592.32	
Ice Cream	870.50	495.76	
Cold Drinks	1,561.80	2,078.00	
Expenses		61.60	-703.80
Payments		0.00	
Consignment			
Bedford Historical Society	84.00		
Bedford Minuteman Company	15.00		
Friends of the Bedford Flag	215.25		314.25
Employee			
Wages		630.86	
Fica		56.28	
Mass. Income Tax		35.36	-722.50
Merchandise			
Purchases / Sales	7,943.22	3,748.65	
New Product Advertising		426.84	
New Product Development		1,937.99	
Hobby Shows expense		617.73	
Shipping	183.14	255.56	
Starting Change Increase		200.00	
Startup Expenses		1,597.57	
Credit Cards		1,372.57	-2,030.55
Organization			
Dues	1,635.00		
Donations	850.70		
Preservation Fund	65.00	236.81	
6211 display		602.90	
Interpretive Track		32.24	
Life Membership CD	25.93		
Meetings		62.99	
Office		425.43	1,216.26
I.T. Equipment		575.32	
Web Site		359.50	
Newsletter		1,413.17	-2,347.99

Receipts Payments Category cash flow

Taxes

Sales Tax	302.03	212.67	
Meals Tax	<u>12.34</u>	<u>6.40</u>	95.30
Variance		59.37	
Operational Totals	<u>14,765.08</u>	<u>19,003.48</u>	<u>-4,238.40</u>
Citizen's Bank Checking Account			<u>3,608.74</u>
Citizen's Bank Checking Account, B&B Project			1,799.51
• Restricted: B&B Track Project		1,799.51	
Citizen's Bank Investment Account			1,248.00
Loose Cash (Freight House cash drawer starting change)			<u>560.00</u>
TOTAL FUNDS:			<u><u>\$7,216.25</u></u>

Restricted Funds, August 31, 2009

Revolving Fund	1,531.82	
Bedford Historical Society	84.00	
Bedford Minuteman Company	15.00	
Friends of the Bedford Flag	<u>215.25</u>	
• Restricted: Others		1,846.07
• Restricted: Marsh donation for sign		1,000.00
• Restricted: Interpretive Track Monument		6.78
• Restricted: Coburn donation for bench		155.00
• Unrestricted -- Primary Checking Account		<u>600.89</u>
		<u>3,608.74</u>

Report of Freight House, Online Store and Mail Order Sales

October 1, 2008 — September 30, 2009

by James A. Shea

Gross Sales Income*

FBDP Merchandise \$	8,832.05	
Shipping	.149.36	
Charitable Contributions	.685.26	†
Membership Dues	.1,600.00	
Consignment Merchandise	.508.45	
Food	.4,345.21	
Total Gross Sales			16,120.33

Gross Profits*

FBDP Merchandise \$	4,800.52	
FBDP Sales Commissions	.76.26	
Food	.2,228.29	
Total Gross Profits			7,105.07

* Gross sales and profit figures include revenues collected from external sales events (e.g., hobby shows and Bedford Day), the online store (www.BedfordDepot.org/store) and mail orders.

† The **charitable contributions total** is comprised of (1) donations that were received with membership renewals and (2) donations made by Freight House visitors. This total does not include an \$845.00 grant from the Amherst Railway Society that was received in July 2009.

Hobby Show Committee Report
October 1, 2008 — September 30, 2009
by Barry E. Sampson

Amherst Big Railroad Hobby Show • West Springfield, Massachusetts
Gross sales plus taxes collected: \$1,656

Mystic Valley Railway Society Show • Mansfield, Massachusetts
Gross sales plus taxes collected: \$406

North Shore Model Railroad Club Show • Wakefield, Massachusetts
Gross sales plus taxes collected: \$610

South Shore Model Railroad Club Show • Hingham, Massachusetts
Gross sales plus taxes collected: \$769

Bedford Day • Bedford, Massachusetts
Gross sales plus taxes collected: \$205

Total gross sales (including sales tax collected): \$3,646

Upcoming hobby shows that FBDP plans to attend in the next 12 months:

North Shore Model Railroad Club Show • Wakefield, Massachusetts

Amherst Big Railroad Hobby Show • West Springfield, Massachusetts

Mystic Valley Railway Society Show • Mansfield, Massachusetts

South Shore Model Railway Club • Hingham, Massachusetts