

# SNETT Improvements & Trail Wide Development Strategy

2013 RTP Final Grant Report

By Becky Kalagher - Bay State Trail Riders Association



In 2013, Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc. (BSTRA) was awarded a grant through the Recreational Trails Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR).

Our project had two components:

1. To improve the SNETT in Douglas between South Street and Monroe Street for a total of 2.67 miles.
2. Trail wide development strategy or "State of the SNETT" report.

Component number 1 started out with cutting and brushing back one section of the SNETT (between Franklin St. and Yew St.) This was accomplished by five days of work including DCR personnel pre-cutting for two days to get everything in place for a smooth Park Serve Day. The plan for Park Serve Day, held on April 27, 2014, was to have enough brush cut so that workers could stack it on the sides of the trail and not impede people running equipment such as chainsaws. Park Serve Day had DCR, BSTRA members, and Douglas High School juniors coming together to help improve the SNETT. We split into two crews. The forward crew was doing the

*Grant award \$22,570*

*Match \$14,508.25  
(reported on application  
\$9,302) Making this a  
39% match!!*

*Total Project Value  
\$37,078.25*



cutting while the rear crew did the stacking. After a hard morning's work, we all gathered together at the Depot Street parking area for a well-deserved lunch provided by BSTRA. DCR personnel came back for another two days to chip all the brush that had been stacked.

Additional work has been contributed by DCR staff in improvements to the parking area on Depot Street which involved fixing the access road, clearing, and leveling out the parking area. This was not included as part of the match as Cary didn't get the hours in to me.

Next Speroni Excavation set to work on August 22nd brush mowing the rest of the targeted work area. Then, in the next few days, re-grading and cleaning out of drainage swales was completed.

I have been talking to people using the SNETT after the work was finished and asking them how they liked the improvements. One long distance runner was very happy that he now could use the SNETT instead of the road. He said he lived just about a mile up the street and this was perfect for his running exercise. I also met an older couple on Depot Street who were taking a little walk to explore the work that had been done. With the surface leveled out, they could actually take their walk even though the husband was using a walker.

Component number 2 started out with Carl & Rudy actually walking the entire SNETT to inventory historic sites, gates, trail surface issues, water issues, encroachment issues, scenic vistas, and so on. Their mapping/data collection was all compiled into a report complete with recommendations. I was pleased that under recommendations, the report now had the notation of "completed" between South Street and Monroe Street (Component #1) in Douglas.

This report was presented to DCR, Friends of the SNETT, Bay State Trail Riders Association. Sometime this coming spring, the Friends of the SNETT plan on a presentation to all six towns that the SNETT goes through along



Park Serve Day April 27, 2014

Volunteers: DCR - Cary VandanAkker, Paul Gosselin, Steve Lovejoy.

BSTRA - Becky Kalagher, Kathy Richards, Bill Knott, Karen Parlin, Rose & Bill Zariczny, Sue Wheeler, Valerie Clark, Gloria Duhaime.

Douglas High School Juniors - Liam Madden, Conner Gauthier, Bryan Pineo, Nicholas Daly and Brennan Hildvrand.

with their respective Senators and Representatives. This report also debuted at the Massachusetts Trails Conference in November. Charles Tracy from the National Park Service did a 30 minute presentation show on the State of the SNETT. I am also pleased that once all the final figures were in, we actually made a 39% match on this project.

BSTRA sincerely thanks DCR and the RTP program for the opportunity to improve the SNETT and have a plan to guide us.



### Park Serve Day April 27, 2014





## Break down of Grant Match

GRANT MATCH		TOTAL VALUE
DCR cutting for Park Serve Day	20 hours @\$26.84	\$536.80
Park Serve Day Volunteer Match	67.58 hours @ \$26.84	\$1,813.84
DCR Finish Chipping between Franklin St. and Depot St.	DCR Finish Chipping between Franklin St. and Depot St.	\$563.64
NPS staff match March 18 to July 14	136 hours @ \$50	\$6,800.00
Shuttle Carl & Rudy July 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> Becky Kalagher	½ hour each day	\$26.84
Aug. 22 <sup>nd</sup> pick up trash on SNETT between Franklin St. and Yew St. Becky Kalagher	45 minutes	\$20.13
NPS graphic design for "State of the SNETT"	\$1,800	\$1,800
NPS printing costs for SNETT report	\$567	\$567
BSTRA Cash	\$2,380.00	\$2,380.00
		\$14,508.25



**Work on the SNETT by  
Speroni Excavation**





## FINISHED WORK



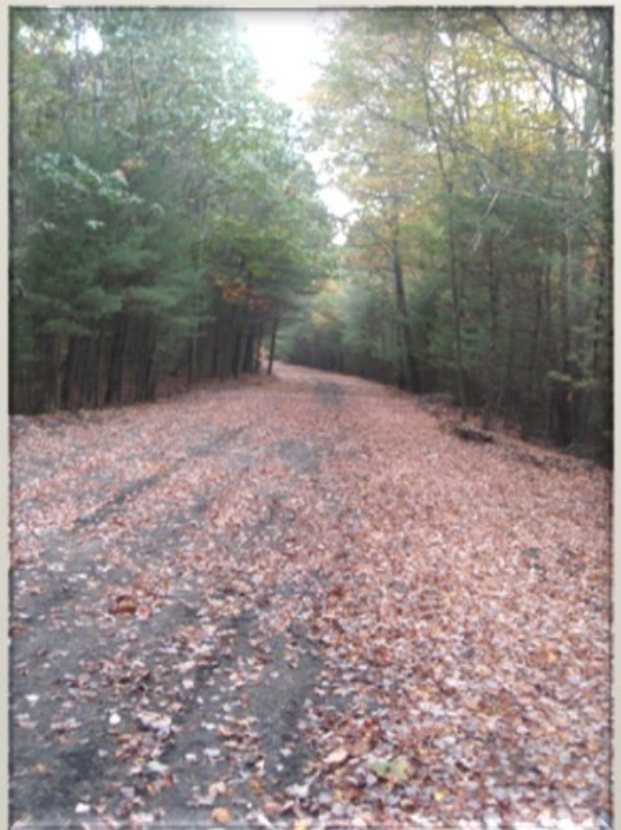
Monroe St. heading West



Depot St. Parking Area

Franklin St. heading West

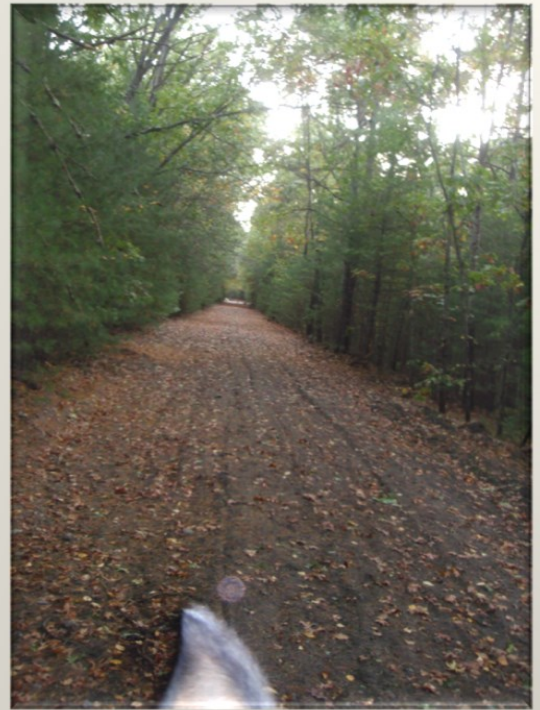
Heart Healthy Trail







**Yew St. crossing heading West**



**Yew St. heading West**

**South East Main St. heading west**



**South East Main St. Crossing**







**Emma & Tom checking out the trail**



**Jogger loving the improvements**



**Riders enjoying the trail**



**New Year's Day on the SNETT**



# First Ride Tradition on the SNETT



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