



FRIENDS OF BEDFORD DEPOT PARK, INC.  
*Honoring and Preserving Our Local Railroad History*

December 5, 2012

Dear Friend,

**Season's greetings!** Through your support and the efforts of the Directors and other volunteers, your organization has had another successful year in meeting its goals of historic preservation and education. We have had the Freight House and railroad car open each weekend this year since mid-March, which has served bikeway users, the local community, and out-of-town visitors. The popular model railroad was maintained and improved. Four more issues of *Bedford Depot News* were published, with vintage photos and articles about our local history. Through many visits to the Walker Transportation Collection in Beverly, we have obtained numerous additional images of the local railroad for electronic display at the Freight House and publication in the newsletter. We have begun cataloging our photo archives and indexing the newsletter (back to 1995), so that this information will be more accessible to the membership and the public. Our collection of historical materials is considerable: it allowed FBDP to assist author Donald Ball with his hardcover book, *George Mansfield and the Billerica & Bedford Railroad*, which was published earlier this year, and it could lead to a future book project of our own. We improved the design of our web site and added new content. Food and beverage sales at the Freight House raised over \$4,600 this year for the revolving fund that supports the Depot Park complex, per our license agreement with the Town of Bedford.

Last year at this time, we appealed for contributions to support the work of FBDP. We are doing so again with this letter. As with most small nonprofit organizations, membership dues cover only part of our expenses—for us, roughly the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter. We were fortunate this year to be able to save much of the \$5,000 that was budgeted to pay Freight House cashiers, thanks to volunteers who stepped forward in late spring. We may not be so fortunate in 2013 and need to plan for this expense. Plus, we suffered a \$1,450 setback this fall by needing to replace a worn-out photocopier and cash register computer, both of which are vital to our operations.

The response to last year's fundraising appeal was very generous and heartening; and we hope you will consider contributing this year. FBDP is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. For your convenience, an addressed envelope is enclosed. **The Directors appreciate your continued support!**

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I would like to make a contribution to support the work of Friends of Bedford Depot Park.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

◇ My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

◇ I wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ via credit card (American Express, Discover, MasterCard or Visa)

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Security code: \_\_\_\_\_ (last 3 digits on the back of MC, Visa, or Discover, 4 digits on the top front of Amex)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**BEDFORD FREIGHT HOUSE**

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*Home of Boston & Maine Rail Diesel Car #6211 and America's First Two-Foot-Gauge Railway*