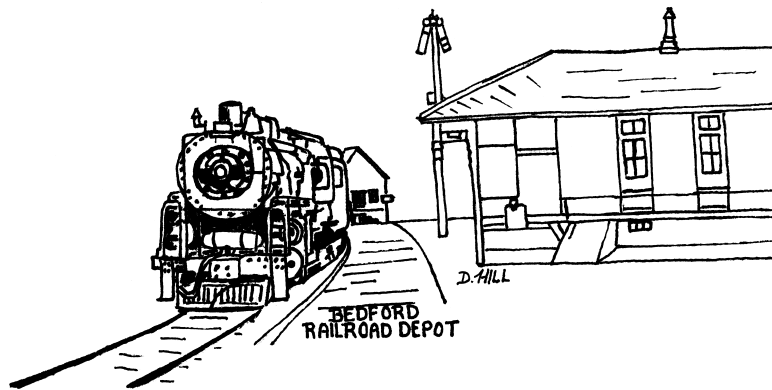


**FRIENDS OF
BEDFORD DEPOT PARK, INC.**



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

**Presented at the Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 11, 2008**

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

October 11, 2008

Dear Friends:

Welcome members and guests to the 14th **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 see a multimedia presentation about Budd Rail Diesel Cars on the Boston & Maine. Vintage photographs from the collections of Alan E. MacMillan and David S. Hutchinson chronicle the early years of RDCs on the railroad.

Sincerely,

Jim Shea
President

**2008 Annual Meeting
AGENDA**

1. Call to order of the business portion of the meeting
 - a. Oral Reports and Updates:
 - b. President
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Clerk
 - e. Hobby Show Committee
 - f. other?
2. Miscellaneous new business
3. Entertainment: *Budd Rail Diesel Cars on the Boston & Maine Railroad*
4. Adjourn

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Report of the President

by James A. Shea

Depot Park Progress

Depot Park's site work has been complete for over four years. Our attention has remained focussed on completing two remaining project phases: the restoration of Rail Diesel Car 6211 and renovation of the Freight House.

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. In February, the state awarded a \$389,409 contract to K&S Builders for this project. The contractor started work at the site in April. The state's anticipated completion date is late May 2009.

Interior buildout/fit-out to the Freight House is to be handled separately by the Town after the state's contractor is finished. New flooring is to be included in this work.

Rail Diesel Car 6211

The DPW is directing the rehabilitation of ex-Boston & Maine RDC 6211 with critical guidance and hands-on help from consultant Dan O'Brien. During the past year, the car received new flooring, windowsills, reupholstered seats, plus a multitude of miscellaneous replacement parts. Although the car's interior is now in generally usable condition, a variety of smaller tasks continue to need attention. For instance, door hardware, rooftop radiator covers, and the pilots (plows) have yet to be installed.

In view of the significant strides that have been achieved with "Project 6211" during the past decade, this is a good time to acknowledge and thank the volunteers who performed much of the "prep" work on the car:

Brewster Ames • Thomas Dickey • Richard Elliott • Arthur Ellis • John Filios • John Hill
Neil Leary • Brooke Moncrieff • Philip Perry • Barry Sampson • Carl Silvestrone
James Shea • Edward Stickney

We continue to request volunteer assistance to accomplish some of the remaining tasks. No special skills are required. Visit the "Project 6211" page of FBDP's web site to learn more and to join the Project 6211 mailing list: FBDP@BedfordDepot.org

FBDP has begun to mount historical posters (vintage Budd RDC advertisements) inside #6211. Next, we plan to establish displays inside #6211's baggage compartment to highlight the history of the local railroad. FBDP has collected several artifacts to share with the public.

Railroad Car Rental

After the Freight House and railroad car renovation projects are finished, the Town plans to make #6211 available for meeting and function rentals. Proceeds from such rentals would be used to help pay for the car's upkeep and utility bills.

Railroad Station Roof Replacement

The current Depot roof dates to at least the 1950s. It was identified as requiring replacement in a building architectural study that was performed last year. The 2007 Annual and Special Town Meetings appropriated a total of \$145,000 for this project. This summer, the Town hired the architectural firm of Menders, Torrey & Spenser to design the new roof. The project is expected to be advertised for construction bids in late October.

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 Freight House food sales. The fund's current balance is \$57,513.05.

Merchandise Sales

With the Freight House closed, FBDP's online store (www.BedfordDepot.org/store) and hobby shows continue to be important ways to raise funds. A summary of sales figures for the past 12 months appears on page 14.

Merchandise Produced by FBDP

Member John M. Boardman generously loaned FBDP many reels of 16 mm. film that he shot of New England railroading during the 1950s, '60s, '70s and early '80s. So far, we have produced six videos from these films to sell as fund-raisers. Proceeds from these sales support FBDP's operations.

Volume Seven is now in production for a planned December release. It will be sold through our web site and at select retailers.

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. One hundred and thirty-eight issues have been published by FBDP since March 1995.

We are grateful to Richard Conard, Paul Harling, Alan E. MacMillan, William Patton, Richard Symmes and Wayne Perry for their recent content submissions—and to George Dalrymple for collating, folding and mailing each issue. As always, your articles are welcomed.

Web Site

FBDP's web site (www.BedfordDepot.org) continues to be an important tool for staying in touch with members and sharing our work with people around the world. An important aspect of the site is a shopping cart system to sell FBDP's merchandise. This feature has proven to be especially valuable since the closing of the Freight House.

The web site has logged an additional 6,062 visitors in the last 12 months. Since January 8, 2005, the site has logged a total of 27,452 visitors.

A redesign of the web site is underway to provide a more uniform appearance and improved 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 (open seat). Jim Shea is the chairman and George Dalrymple is the secretary. The Board of Directors met five 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, the Board directed that an annual audit be made of FBDP's finances. John Caban and Eric Michelson are to conduct the audit in the fall. Their findings and recommendations will be presented the Board.

FY 2009 Budget

Treasurer George Dalrymple and president Jim Shea have prepared a budget forecast for fiscal year 2009 which starts on January 1. It anticipates the organization's income and expenses. This budget is predicated on FBDP's resumption of Freight House operations next year using paid cashiers on weekends for seven months—i.e., April through November when the bikeway is most active. This budget is currently being studied by the Board of Directors in advance of possible future action.

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 reappointed 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 over 640 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. George Dalrymple has assisted at the shows. This committee welcomes your participation at future shows. Please let Barry Sampson know if you're interested.

Arthur Ellis is appointed to the **MacLean Model Railroad Committee**. The committee's purpose is to install an HO-scale model railroad layout inside the Freight House after it is renovated. This layout was donated to FBDP several years ago by the family of the late Donald MacLean. It is a wonderful "recreation" of the Bedford end of the old B&M Lexington Branch.

The post of **Excursions Cordinator** remains open. Although railroad trips are not the core mission of FBDP, 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.

Membership Report of the Clerk

by Edward C. Stickney

Memberships (as of September 30, 2008)

Classification	Enrollment
Individual	35
Family	40
Senior/Individual	31
Senior/Family	36
Lifetime Individual	24
Lifetime Family	42
Lifetime Senior/Individual	34
Lifetime Senior/Family	20
Total number of members	262

New Activity (January 1 through September 30, 2008)

Classification	Enrollment
New Memberships	0
Renewals	73
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 the next two pages.

Annual Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2007				10/03/2008
Citizen's Bank Checking Account				
Bank Register CASH Balances	(as of September 1, 2006)			\$6,877.83
	Receipts	Payments	Category	
			cash flow	
Merchandise				
Purchases / Sales	11,613.07	5,581.35		
Product Development		1,946.67		
Advertising		409.84		
Hobby Shows		824.40		
Shipping	474.35	321.32	3,003.84	
Credit Card				
Credit Card EXPENSE		443.27		
Credit Card INCOME		1,620.74		
Deposit	1,453.75			
Discount		212.06	-822.32	
Organization				
Dues	1,980.00			
Donations	147.94			
Preservation Fund	200.00	217.30		
Interpretive Track		56.54		
Life Membership CD	30.59			
Meetings		147.57		
Office		622.56	1,314.56	
Communications				
IT Equipment		63.20		
Web Site		359.50		
Newsletter		1,350.29	-1,772.99	
Other				
Project 6211		455.05		
Misc.		368.39	-823.44	
Taxes				
Meals Tax	0.00	0.00		
Sales Tax	271.92	268.51	¹ 3.41	
Reporting Fees		15.00		
Change of Starting Change		1.94		
Variance	39.69			
Operational Totals	16,211.31	15,285.50		925.81
Citizen's Bank Checking Account, August 31, 2007				7,803.64
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 (Cash drawer starting change)				383.16
TOTAL FUNDS:				\$11,234.31
Restricted Funds, December 31, 2005				
• Restricted: Preservation Fund				501.57
• Restricted: Display Grant				451.16
• Restricted: Marsh donation for sign				1,000.00
• Restricted: Interpretive Track Monument				6.78
• Restricted: Coburn donation for bench				155.00
• Unrestricted				6,438.41
				8,552.92
All cash transactions occurred September 2007 through August 2008.				
However operational periods varied.				
¹	7/1/06 to 6/30/07			
		George F. Dalrymple		
		Treasurer		
	Pri	176.77		
	Inc	167.50		
	One	22.18		
	Two	16.71		
	Three	0.00		
		\$383.16		

Merchandise Sales Report
October 1, 2007 — September 30, 2008
by James A. Shea

Gross Sales Income*

FBDP Merchandise.....	\$ 11,883.78
Shipping.....	368.20
Charitable Contributions.....	386.71
Membership Dues.....	1,860.00
Total Gross Sales.....	14,498.69

Gross Profits*

FBDP Merchandise.....	6,433.42
Total Gross Profits.....	6,433.42

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

Hobby Show Committee Report
October 1, 2007 — September 30, 2008
by Barry E. Sampson

Amherst Big Railroad Hobby Show • West Springfield, Massachusetts
Gross sales: \$2,470.61

Mystic Valley Railway Society Show • Foxboro, Massachusetts
Gross sales: \$669.51

North Shore Model Railroad Club Show • Wakefield, Massachusetts
Gross sales: \$433.70

South Shore Model Railroad Club Show (two days) • Hingham, Massachusetts
Gross sales: \$1,117.28

Bedford Day • Bedford, Massachusetts
Gross sales: \$398.25

Middlesex Canal Museum Show • North Billerica, Massachusetts
Gross sales: \$742.50

Connecticut Valley Model Railroad Show • Lebanon, New Hampshire
Gross sales: \$700.01

Total gross sales from hobby shows: \$6,561.86

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 • Foxboro, Massachusetts

South Shore Model Railway Club • Hingham, Massachusetts