

Topsfield Town Library hosts Rails to Trails exhibit

During October, the Topsfield Town Library will be hosting a Trains & Trails exhibit that encompasses 123 years of train history in Topsfield. There will be a number of images of trains that carried passengers and freight through the town and the town train-station. The exhibit will be located throughout the Library and the upstairs balcony gallery. The month long exhibit will celebrate the recreational path that now uses the old tracks, called the Topsfield Linear Common.

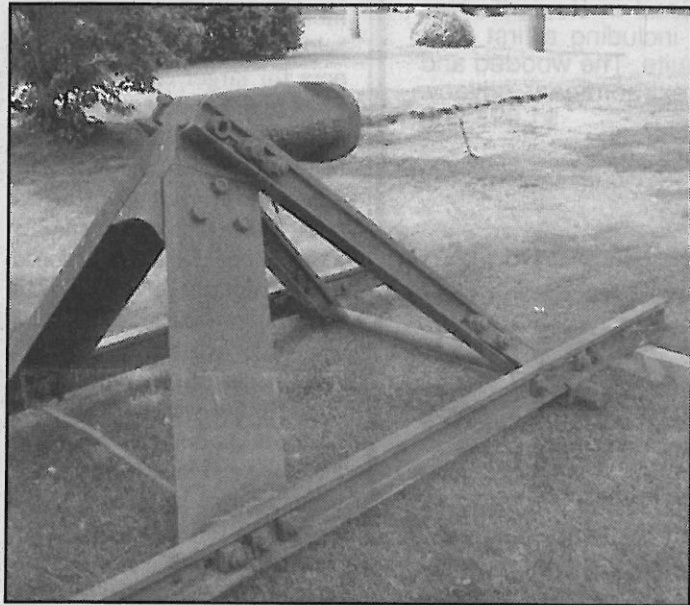
A reception for the exhibit will take place Saturday, Oct. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Topsfield Town Library's meeting room. A ribbon cutting ceremony takes place immediately after the reception at the Topsfield Linear Common. All are welcome to attend both events. At the reception refreshments will be served and people will have a chance to walk through the library to enjoy the exhibit. At the head of the trail, located at the south side crossing of Main Street a ribbon cutting ceremony as Martha Morrison, Chairman of the Topsfield Selectman and Joe Geller, Chairman of the Rails to Trails Committee will welcome the assembly.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, from 7 to 7:45 p.m., Richard Symmes give a talk on train history in the library's meeting room. Immediately after Symmes' talk, the Rails to Trails Committee will hold a public forum on the second phase of the trails development. The public is welcome to this event. Plan to arrive early to walk through the Library and enjoy the exhibit.

The first phase of the Topsfield Linear Common was recently completed and is now open for use. It goes from Washington Street to Summer Street. The

trail already enjoys good use as many residents and visitors exercise by walking or riding on the trail. The trail was developed with private funds and is made primarily of crushed stone that is suitable for walking, bikes and is handicap accessible. Soon an historical 2000-pound train stop will be moved from the Amerigas property to the trail on Main Street thanks to the efforts of the Historical Society and Norm Isler. The stop will be accompanied by a large sign commemorating Topsfield's railroad history.

The public is welcome to enjoy the exhibit that will be located throughout the Library during Library hours - Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, noon to 5 p.m.



WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY BRENDAN LEWIS

An old rail stop will sit along side the Topsfield Rail Trail and is set to be dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 17. The rail stop, used to stop runaway trains, has a designated patch to sit on by the rail trail, right, but trail contractors have not yet installed it.