
Rail trail cleared by Topsfield volunteers

The Topsfield Rail Trail Committee has transformed the abandoned railroad bed into a recreational path known as the Topsfield Linear Common (TLC).

The two miles of trail going south from Main St. to the Wenham town line can be easily followed as the National Grid utility lines run just in front of Topsfield Station, cross Main Street then go into the woods emerging at Rt. 1.

Following the trail takes you out to the 2-mile-long Salem-Beverly Canal, which is used to fill up Wenham Lake with drinking water for Salem and Beverly.

Volunteers have cut brush and mowed the trail to make it enjoyable for all. Development of the trail, supported at both the last Town Meeting and election, is proceeding in phases.

Phase IA goes from Washington to Main St. This section has been preliminarily

designed and there will be a forum shortly for public comment. This will be followed by bidding, with construction in spring 2009. Preliminary planning is starting on Phase IB which extends the TLC to Summer Street.

The TLC is being constructed without town funds. The Committee has received over \$92,000 in grants to complete Phase I, and additional grants are being sought for this project.