

TOWN OF NEW MILFORD

SEGA MEADOWS PARK

TOWN OF NEW MILFORD

47 Bridge Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776
Telephone (860) 355-6050 • Fax (860) 355-6052



Parks & Recreation Department

December 31, 2014

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Final Report of Accomplishments and Performance
Sega Meadows Park River Restoration Project

Accomplishments:

Designed/Engineered Plans for Access Road, Parking and Trails
Upgraded Parking and Entrance Area
Access Road Completed
Construction of Trails Completed, along with GPS Trail Mapping
Fishing dock Built and Installed at Pond
Informational Kiosk Constructed and Completed
2-year Post Restoration Monitoring (Ongoing)
Purchased and Installed Signage Marking All Trails
Purchased and Installed Informational Signage
Invasive Species Removal-Chemical (3 Years) and Physical (2 Years)
Purchased and Installed Park Amenities (2 Trex Bicycle Racks, 2 Trex Message Boxes, 3 Picnic Tables, 2 Cooking Grills, 5 Wood Duck Houses, 10 Bluebird Houses)
Clearing of Downed and Storm Damaged Trees Along Trails/Access Road
2 Wildlife Camera Purchased
"Before" and "After" Photos Taken
Signage at R.R. Crossing Purchased and Installed
Completion of Additional Trail Along River
Sign-Up Book Evaluating Use of Property Purchased and Placed in Information Box
Purchase of Donor Signage

Invasive Removal-Both land-based and wetland invasive species were taking over the landscape at Sega Meadows Park, threatening the biodiversity, habitat quality and ecosystem function of the park. Chemical Treatment of Phragmites around Pond area was applied for 3 years during

the grant period (see photos) with great success and the physical removal of Russian Olive in the meadow area took place for two years with positive results.

Park Usage: "Sega Meadows is not the best kept secret anymore" reports one visitor to the park. While actual numbers are difficult to obtain, New Milford Parks & Recreation employees have seen more and more family groups using the park to walk, bike or walk dogs. Another visitor reports a 10-fold increase in the number of people seen at the park, with "regulars" showing up almost every day at the same time. "I never have Sega Meadows to myself anymore", says another patron. Runners, fishermen, retired seniors, family groups, bikers, and many, many dog walkers use the park on a regular basis and without fail, have commented on the positive changes that have taken place. The beauty of the Housatonic River, the almost separate ecosystems of meadow, pine grove, hardwood forest and pond habitat are now available for townspeople and visitors alike to enjoy.

Reported with pleasure,



Eleanor K. Covelli

Assistant Director

New Milford Parks & Recreation

47 Bridge Street

New Milford, Connecticut 06776

(860) 355-6050

(860) 355-6052-FAX

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Bike trail is born at Sega Meadows Park

Susan Tuz, Staff Writer

Updated 8:08 pm, Wednesday, July 27, 2011

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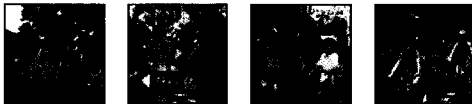
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SPECTRUM/Cycling enthusiast Tom O'Brien, left, joins Mayor Pat Murphy, Public Works director Mike Zarba and Parks & Recreation director Dan Calhoun, right, in the July 20, 2011 groundbreaking for the Sega Meadows Park bkie trail in New Milford. Photo: Trish Haldin



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Jake O'Brien, 13, figured the most appropriate way to travel to the July 20 ground-breaking ceremony for the Sega Meadows Park bike trail would be via his Trek mountain bike.

After all, his father, Tom O'Brien, has spearheaded the project in New Milford.

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"I've been riding bikes pretty much all my life," said Jake, a Schaghticoke Middle School student. "I'm very excited about the trail."

"I ride all the time with my dad," he added, "and this will be one more ride we can take."

The trail will constitute a one-mile stretch of the Housatonic River Trail, designed to eventually run from Lover's Leap Bridge in the south of New Milford north to Gaylordsville.

A \$75,000 grant from the Housatonic Recovery Act is paying for the reclamation of Sega Meadows Park, in the Boardman section of New Milford.

Kiosks, benches and hiking trails, as well as the grading and conditioning of the dirt maintenance road on the town-owned property, will be achieved with the grant money.

Gravel material will be laid on the roadbed to create a path for walking and non-motorized biking.

"It's wonderful to have the involvement of so many people in a positive project like this," said Dan Calhoun, director of the town's Parks & Recreation Department, which oversees Sega Meadows.

Mr. Calhoun said he is glad to see the bike path, since the property has sat mostly unused since the town purchased it in the mid-1990s.

"It's passive activity, and we'll be able to keep the property much as it is," Mr. Calhoun said. "About two years ago, we reached a lease agreement with CL&P and were able to put the parking lot in and partially clear the access road."

Eagle Scout Cody Ferlow, of New Milford, played a role in clearing brush off the old maintenance road, putting in trail signs and clearing an access area by the pond on the property for fishing.

"This is fantastic," said Ivan Shiffman, a member of the New Milford Recreation Association, an independent residents' group listing Mr. O'Brien among its advocates. "We pick a project or two every year to support. Tom's excitement and influence led us to put all of our fundraising activities into (the) river trail this year."

Mike Zarba, the director of New Milford Public Works, said upgrading the maintenance road at Sega Meadows is an exciting step in creating "the bike path I have long envisioned in the town."

Local musician Bob Brophy, of The Blue Yodels band, held an open jam fundraiser for the project Wednesday at Fast Eddie's Billiards Cafe on 46 Old State Road.

"My wife and I used to live in New York City," Mr. Brophy recalled. "Weekends, we'd put our bikes on the car and go to the Peekskills or Brewster and ride the trails."

"Part of those trips was spent eating at restaurants and shopping in bookstores in those towns," he said. "Downtown New Milford could get a lot of benefit from this trail."

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Sega Meadows bike trail off to ceremonial start

Susan Tuz, Staff Writer

Updated 11:33 pm, Monday, July 25, 2011

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On Wednesday, July 20th, 2011, at 11:00am at the Sega Meadows Park off River Road was the official Ground Breaking for the Sega Meadows Bike Trail. After the ground breaking everyone walked the trail back - upfront (from left to right) Mayor Murphy, Ian Shiffman (New Milford Recreation Assistant), and Jay Lewin (political activist) enjoy nature and the shade of the trees. Photo: Trish Haldin



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Updated 11:33 pm, Monday, July 25, 2011

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"It's wonderful to have the involvement of so many people in a positive project like this," said Dan Calhoun, director of the town Parks and Recreation Department, which oversees Sega Meadows, said at the ceremony last Wednesday.

Calhoun said he is glad to see the bike path going in on the property, which has sat mostly unused since the town purchased it in the mid-1990s.

"It's passive activity and we'll be able to keep the property much as it is," Calhoun said. "About two years ago we reached a lease agreement with CL&P and were able to put the parking lot in and partially clear the access road."

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Mike Zarba, public works director, said having his workers upgrade the maintenance road at Sega Meadow is an exciting step in creating "the bike path I have long envisioned in the town."

Local musician Bob Brophy, of The Blue Yodels band, will hold an open jam fundraiser for the project this Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Fast Eddie's Billards Cafe, 46 Old State Road.

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"Part of those trips was spent eating at restaurants and shopping in bookstores in those towns. Downtown New Milford could get a lot of benefit from this trail."

Contact Susan Tuz at stuz@newstimes.com or 860-355-7322.



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Sega Meadows bike trail is 'ready to ride'

Susan Tuz

Published 7:25 pm, Wednesday, April 11, 2012



SPECTRUM/A new trail surface at Sega Meadows in the Boardman district of New Milford enhances the experience for bicyclists. April 2012 Courtesy of Tom O'Brien Photo: Contributed Photo

An early spring cleanup has the Sega Meadows bike trail in the Bordman district of New Milford ready to enjoy.

This was the word Monday from Eleanor Covelli, assistant director of the town's Parks & Recreation Department.

"It's such a great place to ride your bike, bring your dog for a walk, just enjoy," Mrs. Covelli said. "We're looking at how we can make it more accessible to people with amenities and new trails that loop and link."

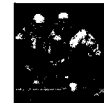
Plans for this spring are to add one or two more picnic tables and a new bench at spots where folks would be likely to stop to rest, or take in the view.

Eagle Scouts are putting in a trail to an overlook spot on the hill on the property and will place a

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bench there for enjoying a view of the Housatonic River.

Tim O'Brien of the New Milford Recreation Association reported the 1.2-mile trail has had a major upgrade with a new crushed stone surface.

"People have been discovering the trail," Mr. O'Brien said. "It survived the winter and is ready to ride this spring."

A \$75,000 grant from the Housatonic Recovery Act is paying for the reclamation of Sega Meadows. The bike path was opened in July, 2011 and major upgrades on the town-owned property have ensued.

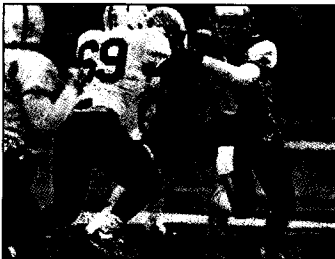
Parking is available at the River Road entrance or in the parking lot on the Route 7 side of the old Boardman Bridge.

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'Unity project' kicks off for youths, police

Nanci Hutson
Published 4:49 pm, Wednesday, May 9, 2012

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The first time many teenagers meet a police officer up close and personal is when they see the red and blue flashing lights in their rear-view mirrors.

Or if they get into some other kind of trouble.

Yet police officers say they are more than law enforcers. They say they are community role models whose primary mission is to protect and serve the public.

With that focus in mind, the New Milford Youth Agency recently teamed up with the New Milford Police Department for a youth-enrichment project funded by a nearly \$10,000 state grant.

Starting April 30, the initiative aims to improve relationships between high school teens and police officers, rooted in mutual interest, understanding and community service.

The program will cover the overtime costs of as many as a dozen officers, who will spend time each week with the teens through the end of June.

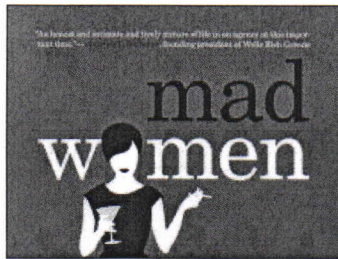
"This is not enforcement interaction, but a chance to find common ground, and create some lasting bonds with us and our youth," said police department administrative Sgt. James Dzamko, who started recruiting the officers for the program.

For the first three weeks, 15 to 20 teens are invited to spend 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. with two nonuniformed officers at the Maxx youth center on Railroad Street.

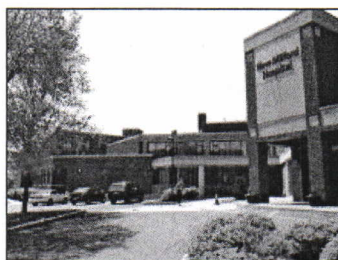
The groups will play video games, watch movies or challenge each other in pool and ping pong tournaments.

After the first three sessions, the police will select eight to 10 young people for leadership

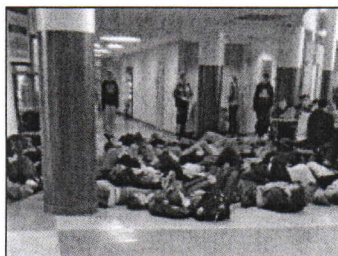
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training through hikes, high-ropes course workshops and construction of a fishing dock at Sega Meadows Park.

In these relaxed settings, Dzamko and Kevin Kwas of the youth agency say they hope the police and teens can get to know each other a bit better and foster mutual understanding and respect.

As the head of the town's juvenile review panel, Kwas said he sees "tons of kids" who find themselves in trouble with the law because of poor decision-making and a lack of good role models.

This opportunity will allow teens a chance to build positive relationships so they become better citizens, Kwas said.

Police Chief Shawn Boyne said this as an extension of the community-policing concept aimed at prevention vs. apprehension.

"It's a youth-police unity project," the chief said.

nhutson@newstimes.com;860-354-2274; twitter.com/NTNanci

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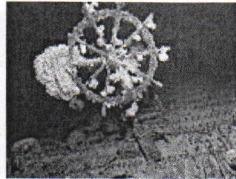
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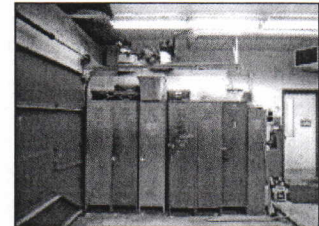
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Bike trail ready for riders

Norm Cummings
Updated 7:20 pm, Friday, August 24, 2012

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NEW MILFORD -- A dozen or more youths fidgeted alongside their bicycles as the adults participated in a ceremony recently at Sega Meadows Park.

The occasion was a ribbon-cutting to officially open the bike trail that weaves its way through the pristine, wooded acres of the town-owned park in the Boardman district of town.

Moments after thank you's had been said -- and Mayor Pat Murphy and bicycling aficionado Jake O'Brien had cut the ribbon -- Jake and the other youths, and a few energetic adults, were off to explore the trail. The bike trail has actually been open for many months at Sega Meadows but the ribbon-cutting afforded officials the chance to recognize the efforts of New Milford Parks & Recreation, the Boy Scouts and many volunteers who helped make the trail a reality.

"It's such a great place to ride your bike, bring your dog for a walk, just enjoy," Eleanor Covelli, the assistant director of New Milford Parks & Recreation, said earlier this year. "We're looking at how we can make it more accessible to people with amenities and new trails that loop and link."

The park is under the auspices of New Milford Parks & Recreation on land given the town by the late Art Sega, a prominent businessman and civic activist who died in 2009.

Parking is available at the River Road entrance or in the parking lot on the Route 7 side of the old Boardman bridge.

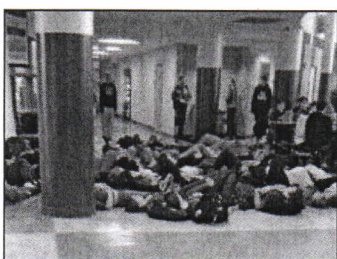
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Appreciates study of the river trail

Published 4:58 pm, Wednesday, August 28, 2013

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To the Editor:

Imagine if you could walk, or ride a bike, on a riverside trail that runs from one end of town to the other?

Thanks to a few generous supporters, that dream is one step closer to reality.

We would like to express our gratitude to the New Milford Economical Development Commission, the New Milford Recreation Association, GeronNursing & Respite Care, Ayden Gold and an anonymous donor for providing the funding necessary to begin Phase I of a feasibility study.

The study will determine how to connect the New Milford River Trail (which currently includes Sega Meadows Park and River Road) with our downtown business district.

In the near future, we hope to begin fundraising for an additional study that will determine the best way to extend the trail from downtown to Brookfield, where it would meet up with the Still River Greenway.

Both of these trails are vital links in the Western New England Greenway (wnegreenway.org), a plan to create a bike-friendly connection between Montreal and New York City.

To learn how you or your organization can help with this project, visit New Milford River Trail on Facebook.

Lisa Arasim

River Trail Association

New Milford

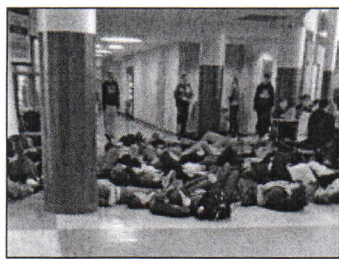
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New Milford Scouts receive Eagle awards

Updated 9:30 pm, Wednesday, September 3, 2014



Honored recently as Eagle Scouts were New Milford Boy Scouts, from left to right, Karl Hinger, Trevor Westfall and Adam Psenicnik. Courtesy of Cary Westfall Photo: Contributed Photo

Three New Milford Boy Scouts recently earned their Eagle Scout awards.

A Court of Honor ceremony took place June 14 at Lynn Deming Park along Candlewood Lake in New Milford.

Trevor Westfall, Adam Psenicnik and Karl Hinger, all of Troop 66, were the honorees.

Trevor is a recent graduate of Henry Abbott Technical High School in Danbury, and earned high honors and honors all through high school.

As a Boy Scout, he was an assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

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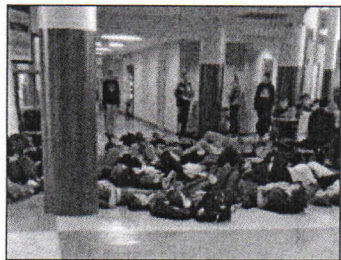
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He has earned 32 Boy Scout merit badges.

Trevor's Eagle Scout project consisted of work at Sega Meadows, where he blazed a hiking trail to the top of a scenic hill overlooking the Housatonic River.

He also built a park bench at the top with a river view and cleared the park entrance of overgrown brush and trees.

Karl graduated from New Milford High School in 2013 and is attending Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, where he is studying drama.

For his project, he took a rusted trailer frame donated to Sullivan Farm and repaired/restored/refinished it to a usable farm trailer for the farm.

This required sanding the rust, priming and painting and building a trailer bed for it. Karl said the project took 118½ hours.

Adam graduated from Abbott Tech in 2013.

For his project, Adam rebuilt the steps from the parking lot to the beach at Lynn Deming Park and refurbished benches near the boat ramp.

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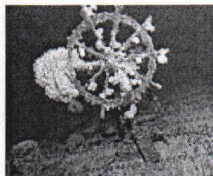
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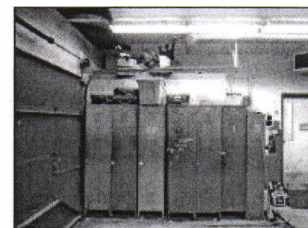


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DOI News

Trustees Release Amendment to Final Restoration Plan for Natural Resources Injured by Hazardous Substances Releases in Housatonic River, Connecticut

08/20/2013



A new, mile-long, public bicycle trail, shown here, and associated parking lot were constructed in Sega Meadows Park in New Milford, Connecticut, pursuant to the July 2009 Restoration Plan to restore natural resource services injured by hazardous substances releases in the Connecticut portion of the Housatonic River Basin. Photo credit: FWS.

On August 20, 2013, the federal and State natural resource trustees released the publicly-reviewed "Final Amendment to the Housatonic River Basin Final Natural Resources Restoration Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Environmental Impact Evaluation for Connecticut." This Amendment selects seven, additional, preferred aquatic natural resource restoration projects to be undertaken in Connecticut.

The natural resource trustees involved in this case include:

- State of Connecticut, represented by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection;
- U.S. Department of Commerce, represented by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and,
- U.S. Department of the Interior, represented by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Housatonic River flows south from the Berkshire Mountains through western Massachusetts and Connecticut, eventually emptying into Long Island Sound. From the late 1930s to the late 1970s,

General Electric Company operated a facility in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, for the manufacture of electrical transformers. Hazardous substances from this facility -- including PCBs, dioxins, furans, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds and metals -- were released to Housatonic River.

Sediments, floodplain soils, river banks and former river oxbows in the Housatonic River watershed, from Pittsfield to Long Island Sound, were contaminated by these hazardous substances. Natural resources and natural resource services were injured by these releases.

Natural resource damage claims against General Electric were settled in a Consent Decree entered by the U.S. District Court on October 27, 2000. In this settlement, General Electric agreed to clean-up the contamination and pay \$15 million for natural resource restoration projects. Approximately half of this amount was directed to projects specifically in Connecticut. The trustees released a publicly-reviewed Restoration Plan in July 2009 selecting 27 preferred restoration projects in Connecticut, totaling \$7 million, to restore these injured natural resources and natural resource services.

A portion of these settlement funds were reserved for future aquatic natural resource restoration projects to be determined by amending the 2009 Restoration Plan. With accrued interest, these reserved funds have grown to more than \$2 million.

This publicly-reviewed Amendment to the Restoration Plan selects seven aquatic natural resource restoration projects to be funded with these reserved funds, including:

- Power Line Marsh habitat restoration;
- Restoration of River and stream continuity in northwest Connecticut through culvert replacement;
- Long Beach west tidal marsh habitat restoration;
- McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Great Meadows Unit, conceptual marsh restoration;
- Old Papermill Pond Dam fish passage;
- Pin Shop Pond Dam removal; and,
- Tigue Dam bypass channel.

These restoration projects are designed to improve estuarine wildlife habitat and increase habitat for migratory fish. The trustees will monitor and evaluate the implementation of these projects.

Further reading:

- Amendment to Restoration Plan (dated June 2013)
- Restoration Plan (dated July 2009)
- Consent Decree (entered October 27, 2000)
- Fact Sheet (dated January, 2013)
- FWS Housatonic River Restoration website
- *Torrington Register Citizen* press report (dated August 20, 2013)
- *Litchfield County Times* press report (dated August 21, 2013)
- *Middletown Press* press report (dated August 21, 2013)
- *Danbury News Times* press report (dated August 21, 2013)
- *Stamford Plus Magazine* press report (dated August 21, 2013)

<< Previous

Justice Opens 30-Day Public
Comment Period on Proposed
Settlement for Natural Resource
Damages at Ciba-Geigy NPL site,
Washington County, Alabama

Next >>

Trustees Settle Natural Resource
Damage Claims Arising from
Hazardous Substances Releases
at Former Pesticide Manufacturer
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IMAGES

All roads lead to Kent Pumpkin Run **\$13**

SCHOOLS NMHS' best

students earn the spotlight **\$15**

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"I'm sure you can sit there and say if this (plan) is fiscally sound. But is it educationally sound?"

The board will vote at its December meeting whether to approve the town's redistricting as presented by Milone & MacBroom planner Rebecca Auger.

Her recommendation is to redistrict areas of the town only where children now attending Pettibone School live.

The present Pettibone district would be split in the downtown area and along the Housatonic River.

The entire Hill and Plain School district and Northville School district would remain the same, with kindergartners through

See Schools' on 56

make sure everything is in place and parents will be clear on what is going to happen."

The transition plan will include closing Pettibone School at the close of this school year, moving all third-graders to Sarah Noble Intermediate School and moving sixth-graders from Sarah Noble to Schaghticoke Middle School next fall.

Arum and Olefson could have a tough road ahead.

The eight parents who spoke at Nov. 18's meeting were emotional about the closing of Pettibone School and the reconfiguring of grades to come.

"The environment that has

posed to the entire transition. "There are many residents in this town who are concerned that this is a rush job," Lawson told Arum. "The whole school community is involved in this change."

"I hope you don't try to tell parents what they think about this," he added, "when you hold focus groups and really listen to their concerns."

Olefson said parents and staff will be asked what they think would make the transition work the best. No one's feeling would be overlooked, he said.

"We are providing oversight and overview," Olefson said. "We will provide another eye checking to

the changes to take place in the next school year in the town's school district.

Consulting firm Milone & MacBroom presented a plan Nov. 18 to the Board of Education for redistricting the town.

With the impending and controversial closing of John Pettibone School in June 2015, just two grade K-2 elementary schools will remain open next fall.

The Board of Education took another significant step by hiring Arum & Associates to oversee the transition.

The board approved hiring Arum and his assistant, Jeff Olefson, by a 7-1 vote, with board member Theresa Volinski absent. David Lawson voted against the plan on the grounds he is op-

Sega Meadows Park: A dream come true

By Susan Tuz

Jim Sega wishes his father, Art Sega, were still alive to see the beautiful New Milford park in his family's name.

Art Sega, a prominent New Milford businessman and civic contributor throughout the second half of the 20th century, had sold the site's original 23 acres along the Housatonic River to the town in 1992.

Today, Sega Meadows Park totals 88 acres, thanks to the licensing of an additional 65 acres by Northeast Utilities in 2003 for access improve-

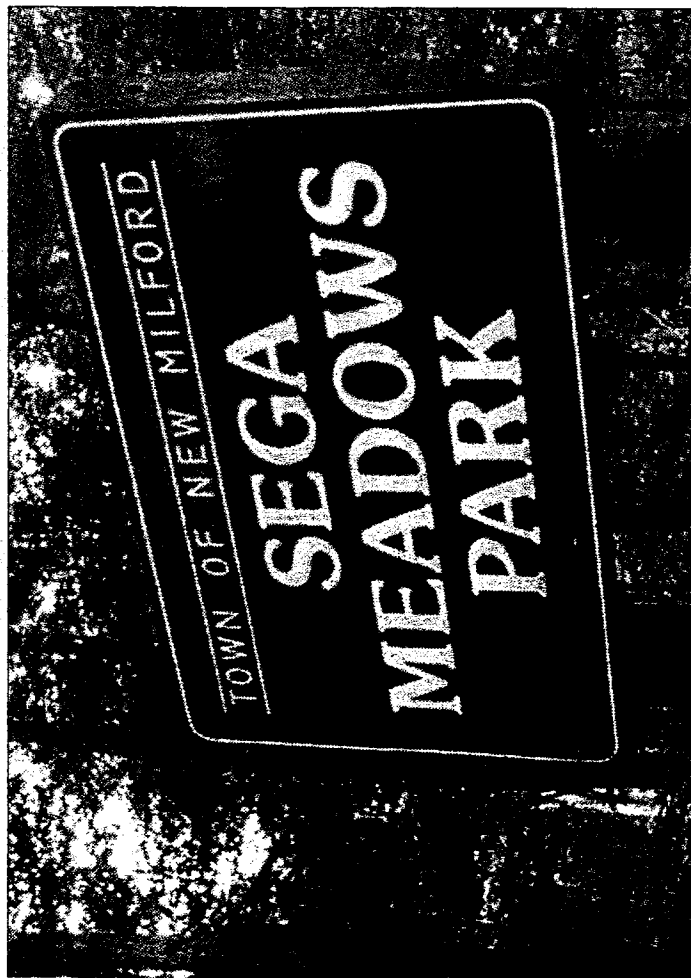
ment and park development.

"Dad has been gone for five years now," Jim Sega said Nov. 19. "He and my mother were hopeful the land would be developed as a park when they sold it to the town at a reduced price."

"I'm sure he'd be happy," he added, "with it the way it is now."

The original acreage of Sega Meadows, a short walk at its southernmost point from Boardman Bridge, sat idle for more than a decade due in part to public fear of the PCB contamination in the

See Sega on 52



NORM CUMMINGS/SPECTRUM

ment years in the making. Sega Meadows Park in the Boardman district of New Milford is now nearing completion.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Milford Historical Society is in need of

Society plans centennial

... an 18th-century hearth, a Victorian room and collection of shings. Spring, several members of the Board of Trustees several new ne on board, its full 14-plement for in years. The new member to take on projects. In 2015, we a plan together to the Knapp the new ent, Ted Hine. rmer, a circuit Connecticut storic Preser-nspected the ill be working e resto- step will be to contents of the e and bring in ctural engi-deeper inspec-

tion, determining all of the work needed and coming up with a cost.

"We've come up with some ideas," Hine said. "We may display some of the furniture and objects in the house throughout our community during restoration, maybe setting up a display in a vacant storefront downtown, maybe at town hall."

Roush said she would welcome volunteers to help pack and move the items in the house to a storage facility still to be chosen.

"With my training," the curator add, "I can instruct people on how to carefully handle the historic items in the house."

Once a cost is determined for the restoration, grants would be sought. Roush and the board are hoping the community will pitch in.

"This is our oldest and largest artifact," Hine said. "We'll fix it up and make it last another 200 years. This project will be a springboard for things to come."

stuz@newstimes.com;
203-731-3352

Sega Meadows Park: A dream come true

Continued from S1
Housatonic River.

Then, as part of its 2000 consent decree, General Electric paid more than \$15 million in natural resources damages to account for releases of PCBs into the river over many decades.

The town of New Milford received \$75,217 from that settlement to develop the 23-acre park.

In 2007, work finally began.

During the past seven years, nature trails, a 1.2-mile multiuse path and fishing areas were added to the park.

Picnic tables, cooking grills and park benches dot the property, and informational kiosks explain the flower and fauna to be found in the park. Invasive species were removed and native species planted.

Five wood duck houses and 10 bluebird houses were installed and GPS trailmapping was set up.

A fishing dock was built at the property's pond by teens from the New Milford Youth Agency and officers from

During the past seven years, nature trails, a 1.2-mile multiuse path and fishing areas were added to the park.

the New Milford Police Department, working in tandem.

On Dec. 31, the park is projected to officially be completed.

"Everybody really came together to get this done," said Eleanor Covelli, assistant director of the town's Parks & Recreation Department. "We had great Eagle Scouts, kids from the Youth Agency and seemingly every department in the town working with us."

The Iroquois Leaf Grant was what got the project started, Covelli noted. That funding covered the initial work on the north end of the park, she said.

The Iroquois Gas transmission system pays the town \$10,000 a year for gas flow through its pipeline on the property.

"Everyone from the mayor's office to Public Works had a hand," said

Dan Calhoun, director of public works. "(State Sen.) Clark Chapin even got involved when he was our state representative."

"He worked to get permission for our walking path to cross the railroad tracks at the Boardman Road entrance," Calhoun added.

Tom O'Brien, president of the New Milford Trails Association, played a role in getting an old logging road on the property transformed into a multi-use bike, walking and jogging trail.

"Sega Meadows is one of the most beautiful riverside parks I've ever seen," O'Brien said. "The autumn colors two weeks ago were gorgeous and, in the spring, as the leaves come out, you still have a beautiful view of the river."

stuz@newstimes.com;
203-731-3352

Hospital technicians vote to unionize

Continued from S1

how much we accomplish when we work together."

Before that vote, members of Connecticut's Democratic congressional delegation wrote to Murphy and to AFT Connecticut President Melodie Peters, advising both sides to respect the results of the election.

"Typically, wages, benefits and conditions are

stronger among unionized employees, than for at-will employees in comparable positions," read the letter, signed by U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, and U.S. Reps. Elizabeth Esty and Jim Himes.

"(This) results in higher employee loyalty and productivity, which benefits the employer, patients and the employees themselves."

The union said 11 weeks had been wasted by the health network fighting unionization efforts.

"We needed a voice not just to advocate for ourselves, but also for those who depend on us," said Renee Stefanko, a certified surgical technologist at Danbury Hospital.

rryser@newstimes.com;
203-731-3342

Sega Meadows TRAIL MAP

Town of New Milford, Connecticut

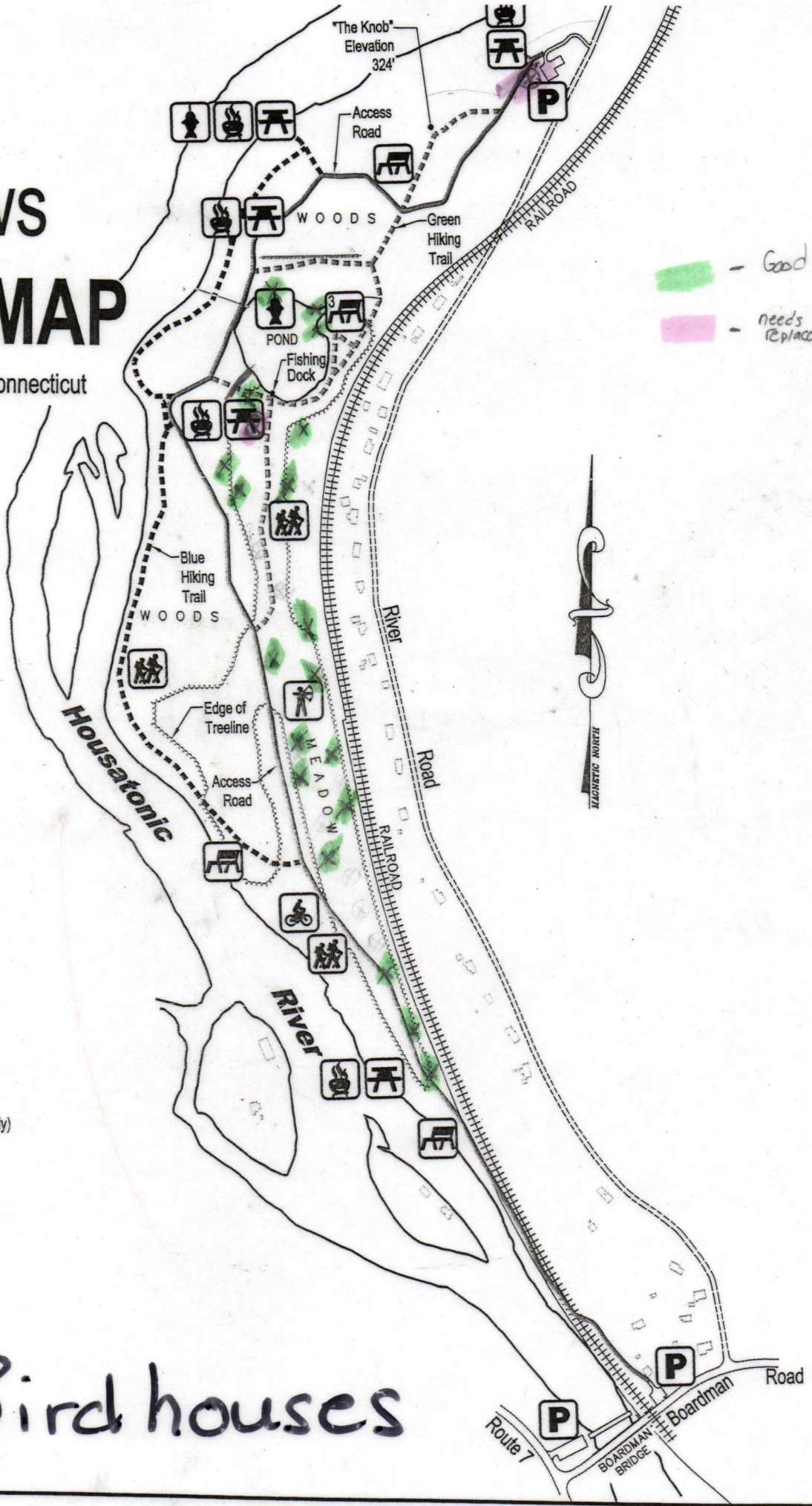
Recreational Legend

- Parking
- Hiking
- Picnic Area
- Grill
- Park Bench
- Biking
- Dogs on Leash ok
- Fishing
- Camping (permit only)
- Bow Hunting (designated areas only)

Map Legend

- Hiking Trail
- Access Road (gravel)
- Treeline (edge woods)
- Railroad
- Boundary Line
- Stonewall

- Good
 - needs replacement



Bird houses