

What A Rail Trail Could Mean to the Ossipee Area



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In the Beginning



Center Ossipee

- Center Ossipee was a bustling little town in mid 20th century
- The B & M Railroad made daily stops coming from Southern NH and the Boston area
- Many tourists and visitors came to the area

Main Street Center Ossipee



Major North - South Highway Rt 16



- In addition to the train, Rt 16 was at the bottom of Main St leading into town.
- There were two exits off the highway bringing travelers and tourists into town.
- The same municipal buildings that exist in Ctr Ossipee today existed then.
 - ✦ Post office
 - ✦ Elementary school
 - ✦ Town offices
 - ✦ Library

The Town Then

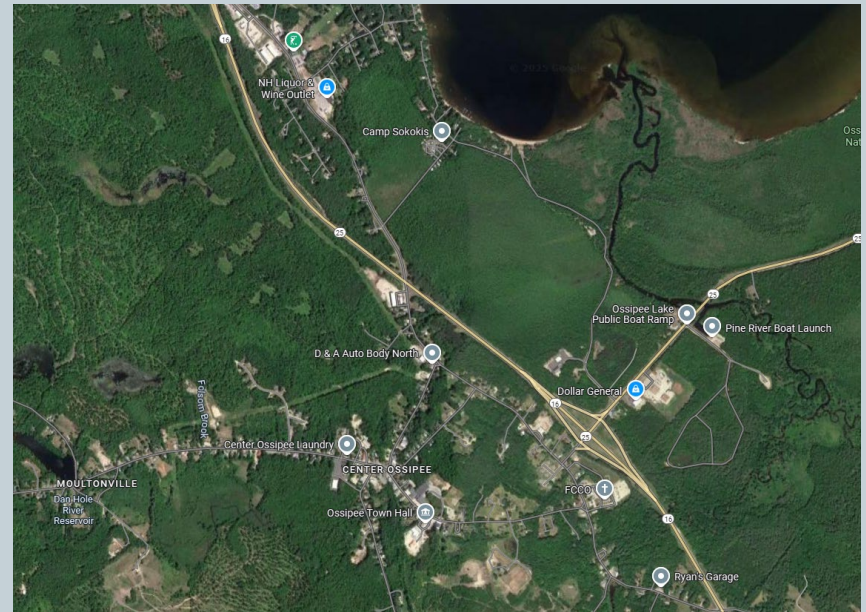


- Streets were busy with cars and people enjoyed the town
- There was a hotel which some nicknamed "The Statler of the Sticks"
- You could find a general store, and IGA grocery store, drug store, and even the Pineland Movie Theater



Then It Happened

- The last train came thru in 1962.
- Rt16 was improved, the speed limit raised, and it was easier to continue thru Ossipee rather than stop.
- The small local stores started to move out, or vanish. The hotel was gone and suddenly **there was no real reason to visit Center Ossipee.**



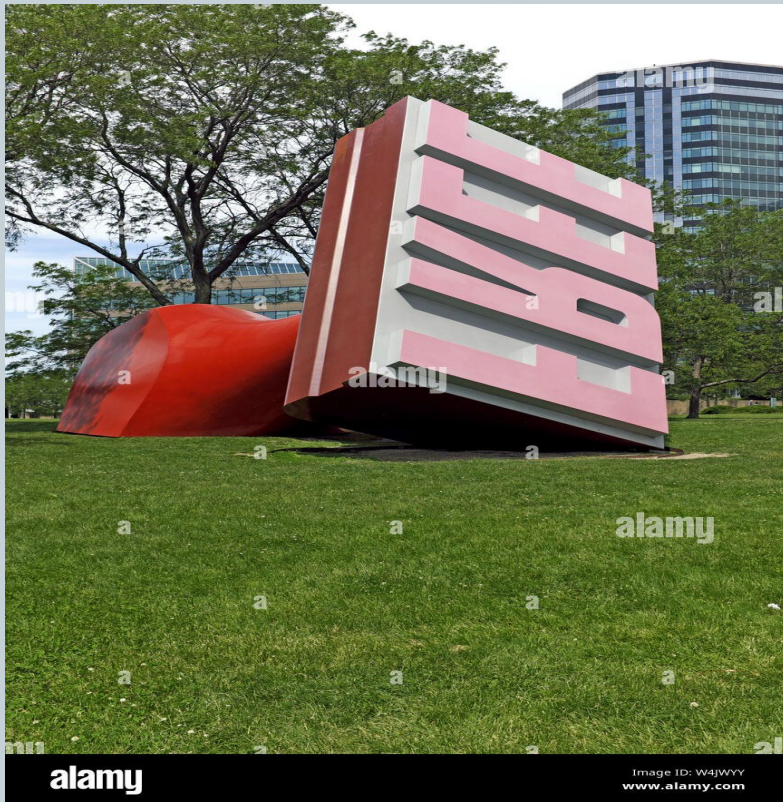
The Town Today

- Slowly, over the last 10 years or so, people have started fixing some of the buildings.
- The OEDC has worked hard to try to encourage new businesses to open, and bring back the feel of a community to the Center
- There still remains no real attraction in town to bring the much needed tourists and locals to the area.



What could Ossipee do to bring people to Town??

**Willard Park, Cleveland Ohio
The Largest Rubber Stamp!**



**Cawker City, Kansas
The Largest Ball of Twine!**



Ossipee thinks a Rail Trail will be our attraction!



The economic opportunities are there We just need a reason for people stay



- Town Hall
- Senior Center
- Elementary School
- Public library
- Post Office
- Community Center
- Restaurants
- Everyone goes through town on the way to the Transfer Station

HB1468 is Approved



- HB1468 Approved Jan 2025
- An act directing creation of the Conway Branch Planning Group.
- Chartered to create a plan for the best use of the corridor
 - ***Passed unanimously by House and Senate***
 - ***Signed by Governor***
 - ***Determined best use was to create a multi-use trail***
 - DOT will transfer in March 21 miles of corridor to DNCR
 - ✦ 4.84 miles Old rt 28 to Ctr Ossipee
 - ✦ 10.29 miles Ctr Ossipee to Rt113 Madison
 - ✦ .13 miles (privately owned 780 ft section)
 - ✦ 5.9 miles Rt 113 to Town line where Conway Scenic takes ownership)

HB1468 DOT Transfer



Phase	Mile Markers	Start Point	End Point	Miles
1	115.90 to 118.60	Moultonville Rd Center Ossipee	Rt 16 Intersection	2.7 Miles
2	118.60 to 121.62	Rt 16 Intersection	Freedom Rd (Rt 41)	3.02 Miles
3	121.62 to 126.19	Freedom Rd (rt 41)	Rt 113 Silver Lake Madison	4.57 Miles
Future 4	112.31 to 115.90	Northcoast RR (rt 28)	Moultonville Rd Center Ossipee	4.84 Miles
Future 5	126.19 to 132.09	Rt 113 Madison	Conway Town Line (Conway Scenic Railroad)	5.9 Miles

HB 1468 transfers 21.03 miles From DOT to NHDNCR

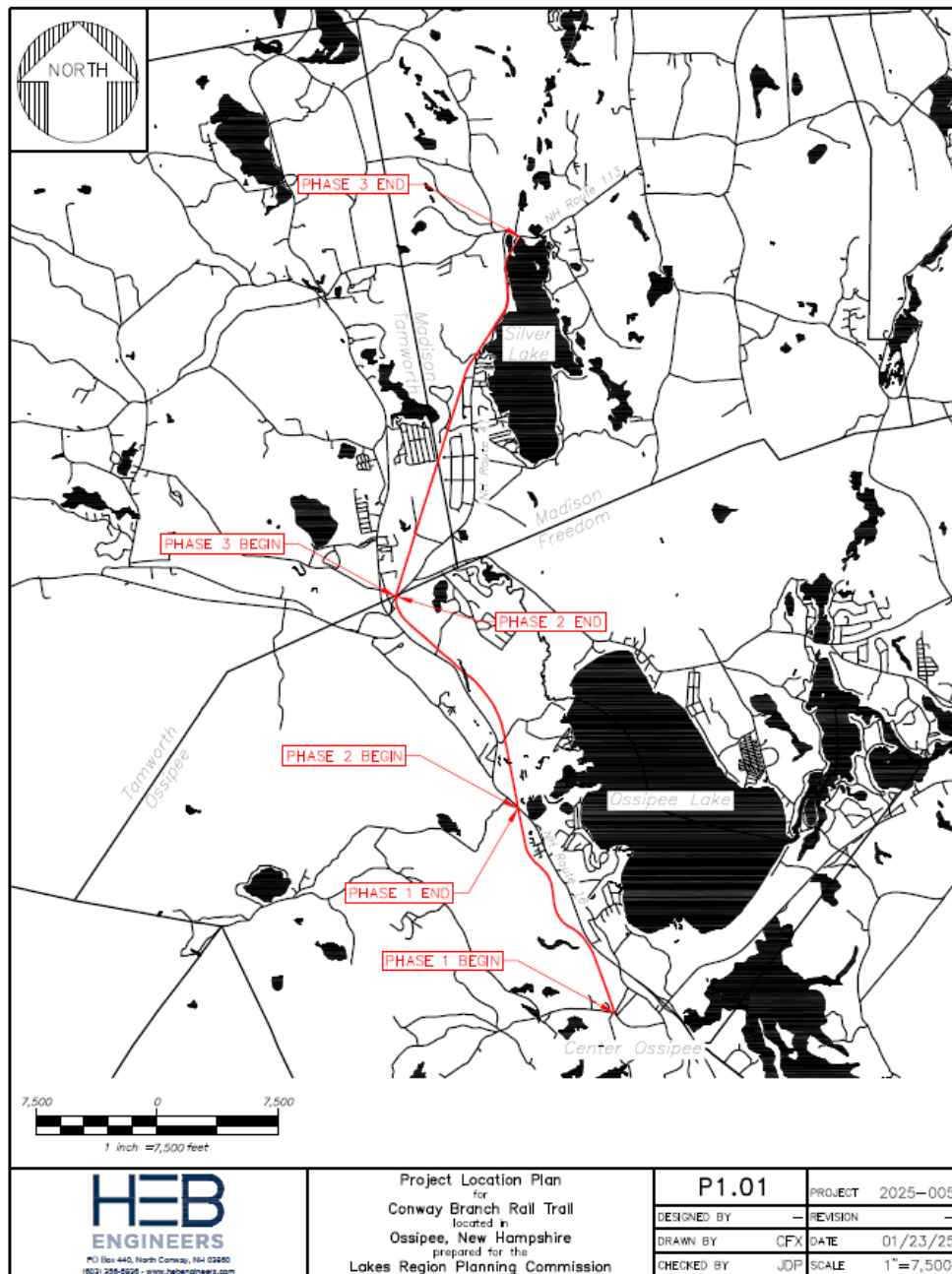
Proposed Trail

Phase 1 trail head looking north



Corridor is already a critical snowmobile path





Trail Proposal Highlights



- Phase 1. (Ossipee Center)
 - Moultonville Rd. to Rt 16 2.7 mile section
 - ✦ Good public parking exists
 - ✦ Center of Town will have positive economic impact
 - ✦ Great place for street fairs and farmers markets
 - ✦ Good visibility
 - ✦ Accessible to Senior Center, elementary school, town center and stores
 - ✦ Connectivity to Mountain Estates and Ossipee Lake
- Phase 2 (Ossipee Center to West Ossipee)
 - Rt 16 crossing to Rt 41 Freedom Rd
 - ✦ Would begin to connect towns
 - ✦ 2nd town center would benefit
- Phase 3 (Ossipee, Tamworth, Madison, Silver Lake)
 - ✦ Rt 41 Freedom Rd to Silver Lake Madison
 - ✦ Adds connectivity to multi commercial properties as well as additional town

Phase 1 Scope



- **2.7 mile section based on HEB Engineers summary letter and estimate**
 - All rails and ties removed
 - 10 ft wide stone dust pathway
 - 2 ft gravel shoulders on both sides
 - Meet 12 ft minimum cross section to accommodate snowmobile use
 - Create a welcoming Trail Head
 - Re-decking of bridge once rails are pulled
 - ROW impact allowance included

Project Costs



Total Project Cost for first 3 Phases is \$6,393,600

Proposed Improvements	2025 PE	2025 ROW	2025 Construction	total
Phase 1 (2.7 miles)	\$180,000	\$10,000	\$1,321,100	\$1,511,300
Phase 2 (3.0 miles)	\$270,000	\$10,000	\$1,984,300	\$2,264,900
Phase 3 (4.6 miles)	\$312,900	\$10,000	\$2,294,500	\$2,617,400

PE – Project Engineering
ROW- Right of Way
CON-Construction Costs

Est. by HEB Engineers
Project #2025-005 Jan-
23,2025

Phase 1 Goal



- Make Center Ossipee village center a community asset and enhance the tax base
 - Draw new small community unique businesses to the area
 - Attract new services and opportunities to the area
 - ✦ Ice cream shop
 - ✦ ATM
 - ✦ Dry goods
 - ✦ Coffee shop
 - ✦ Specialty services
 - Enhance and enrich existing businesses
 - Develop a community centric atmosphere
 - Create a safe environment for area children and seniors

Supporting Infrastructure



- Ossipee has an experienced Public Works Dept
 - Heavy equipment
 - 9 full time employees
- Full time Recreation Director
- Recreational Expendable Trust is place
- Proposed warrant article to help support trail
- Support by 2 local snowmobile clubs
- Friends of Ossipee Rail Trail (FORT) 501c3 (pending)

Widely Supported By Ossipee



- Initiated By OEDC in 2019
- Supported by
 - Ossipee Selectmen
 - Planning Board
 - Town Residents via Envision night & UNH Cooperative study survey
 - Local Businesses
- Will be included in new Ossipee Master Plan
- Ossipee Lake Associations

Lets make Ossipee a small town revitalization success story!
Are we still waiting for the train...or for the rail trail?

