

Revival News & Notes



The Newsletter of Revitalizing Waterbury, Inc.

Fall 2005

No. 4

Waterbury Railroad Station Restoration to Begin This Fall

Revitalizing Waterbury's (RW) railroad station restoration project is set to begin this fall with an expected completion date of May 2006. While the project aims to restore Waterbury's Railroad Station, which was built in 1875 and now serves as an Amtrak station, it will also create a new, multi-purpose building with three distinct spaces. The northernmost space will feature a café operated by the Waterbury-based Green Mountain Coffee Roasters (GMCR). The remaining spaces will feature a GMCR visitor's center as well as a regional visitor's center. The GMCR center will provide information about the company, its local operation, and its social and environmental missions. The regional visitor's center will feature information on Waterbury and the surrounding area, points of interest and Waterbury businesses and events. The finished building will "provide a vital place in the community for the people of Waterbury, visitors and Amtrak passengers," said RW project manager Amy Johnston.

The first phase of the restoration project took place in early July when a crew from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps spent a week prefabricating sections of decking that will be attached to the station next spring. The materials for the ten sections of decking, which will span the breadth of the building, were partially funded by a Vermont Agency of Transportation grant.

Extensive building renovations will begin with structural work to stabilize the building. The winter months will be spent completing the interior, and come spring, workers will focus on exterior finishes, paving, and plantings.

"The scope of work to restore this building is ambitious, but we're working with a great structure that's stood up pretty well

against decades of vibration from the trains," said Johnston. A detailed listing of upcoming renovations follows.

Waterbury Railroad Station Renovation Summary

Exterior work: structural repair of the framing and repair of the brick work around the two doors on the track side; extensions of the roofs on the front and south side of the building to restore the overhanging system that wrapped around the whole station; replacing missing chimney caps; rebuilding the bell shaped cupola tower; replicating and installing ornate trim; repair of windows and doors; repointing of brick veneer as needed; and painting (the colors, yet to be chosen, will be determined based on old photos of the station).

Interior work: extend the window and door jambs inward and apply a new wall surface to create a wall cavity deep enough to receive insulation (jump the jambs); remove the dropped ceilings to reveal the high, original plaster ceilings that slope into the walls; install new systems for electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating and air; retain or replace "in kind" all the interior wood finishes including doors, windows,

wainscoting and trims; fit-up and finish the space for its future use retaining the original interior layout of the building.

To date RW has raised over \$1.1 million of the estimated project costs of \$1.4 million. Recent contributors include the Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Waterbury Rotary Club and the Lintilhac Foundation.

RW Wins at July 4th Parade

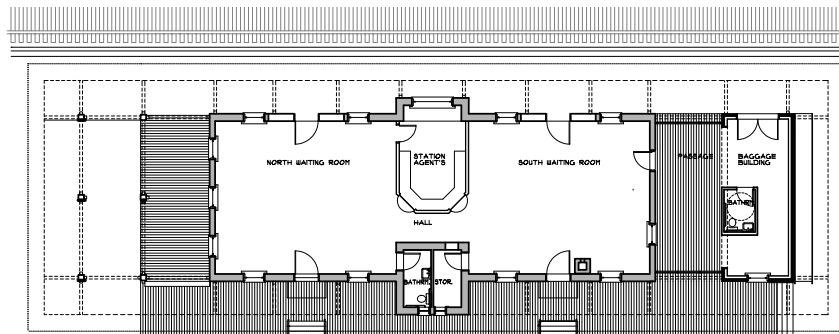
Revitalizing Waterbury won first place for "The Most Creative Float" in this year's July 4th parade in Waterbury!

Designed and constructed by Iona Kemp, Carolyn Goodwin Kueffner, David, Margaret and Trevor Luce, Sarah Lee Terrat and Jack Carter, RW's float was the railroad station on a train! Replete with steam (dry ice and water), the float was driven by David Luce and fueled by Greg Trulson and Willie Docto. We even had a caboose, driven by Chris Tagatac! Vermont-made train whistles were donated by the Stowe Street Emporium.

The theme of this year's parade was "Community Heroes", and RW was joined by Bob Batchelder, WWII veteran. We were honored by his presence.



David Luce was the "conductor" of RW's prize winning float.



Proposed floor plan for the Waterbury Railroad Station by Arnold & Scangus Architects.

**LEARN THE DETAILS OF THE
RAILROAD STATION RENOVATION.**

**Informational meeting on Tuesday, September 13th,
7pm at the railroad station.**

Vermont Youth Conservation Corp Update

The restoration of the railroad station has begun! In July, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) constructed the decking that will be placed on the park side of the building when the rest of the construction is done next spring. A crew of eight students and two supervisors, assisted by RW board member David Luce, completed the work in less than a week. The completed deck sections will be kept in dry storage over the winter.

The VYCC's work crew was awarded to RW via a competitive grant application process through the VYCC and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT), and is one of many projects that will be completed by VYCC this summer. RW also received a \$625 grant from AOT which helped defray the cost of the materials.

Working from plans by architect Laz Scangas, and interpreted by David Luce, the crew constructed ten sections that will be connected together into a 115-foot deck. "The kids on this crew were more used to cutting trails in the woods," said Luce, "but with the supervision they had and their excitement to be working on this project, they mastered the detail work in no time."

VYCC expressed a desire to be present for RW's grand opening celebration of the station in June of next year, which coincides with their 20th anniversary, Green Mountain Coffee Roaster's 25th anniversary and Revitalizing Waterbury's 15th anniversary.

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps is a non-profit youth, service, conservation, and education organization that instills in individuals the values of personal responsibility, hard work, education, and respect for the environment. Each year, the VYCC hires young people aged 16-24. Currently headquartered in Waterbury, VYCC will be moving to the restored Monitor Barn on Route 2 in Richmond later this summer.



The VYCC hard at work on the cedar decking for the Waterbury railroad station.

Photo credit: Mitch Moraski

Green Up Day on the Tracks

For the 8th year, RW joined with thousands of volunteers across the state and helped clean up after another long winter.

In connection with the railroad station, and RW's interest in the downtown village, we concentrated again on cleaning up the railroad tracks from the station to beyond the new dry bridge on Stowe Street.

"While it is remarkable how much trash finds its way onto the tracks every year, the amount was far less in the areas we have covered in the past compared to the new section we covered this year," commented Tom Stevens, RW board member. Until this year, RW stopped at the bridge, but this year they continued on another 300 yards. In that short length alone, RW pulled out more trash than in the section from the bridge to the station.

More than a dozen members of RW joined in the clean up this year. Please feel free to join us next year, or any other group you know that participates – an hour's time on a spring day can make a huge impact!



RW president Laura Parette and her daughter Shelby help "Green Up" Vermont and the railroad tracks.

RW meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm. Locations vary. Please call 244-1575 for info.
Future meeting dates: Sept. 13 • Oct. 11 • Nov. 8

OFFICERS:
 Laura Parette
President
 Carolyn Goodwin Kueffner
Vice President
 Iona Kemp
Treasurer and Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
 Jack Carter
 Rick Darby
 Janet DiBlasi
 Jeanne Kirby
 David Luce
 Bob McLeod
 Joyce Rogan
 Tom Stevens
 Sarah-Lee Terrat

www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org • info@RevitalizingWaterbury.org
 PO Box 473, Waterbury, VT 05676 • 802.244.5321

LEARN THE DETAILS OF THE STATION RENOVATION.
 Information meeting on Tuesday, September 13th,
 7:00pm at the station.

PO Box 473
 Waterbury, VT 05676

