

New Office

FRIENDS OF SCHELL BRIDGE HAS OPENED AN OFFICE ON MAIN STREET, NORTHFIELD

The office, in the Green Trees Gallery building at 105 Main Street, is shared with the Greater Northfield Watershed Association, another non-profit 501(c)3 corporation with a conservation/educational/preservation mission.

On September 1, 2007, Friends of Schell Bridge moved into its new office space in the Green Trees Gallery. The public is invited to visit the office, talk with staff and volunteers, and pick up various information and material. The sign in front

Friends of Schell Bridge



www.schellbridge.org

Promoting a Vision for the Future of Northfield

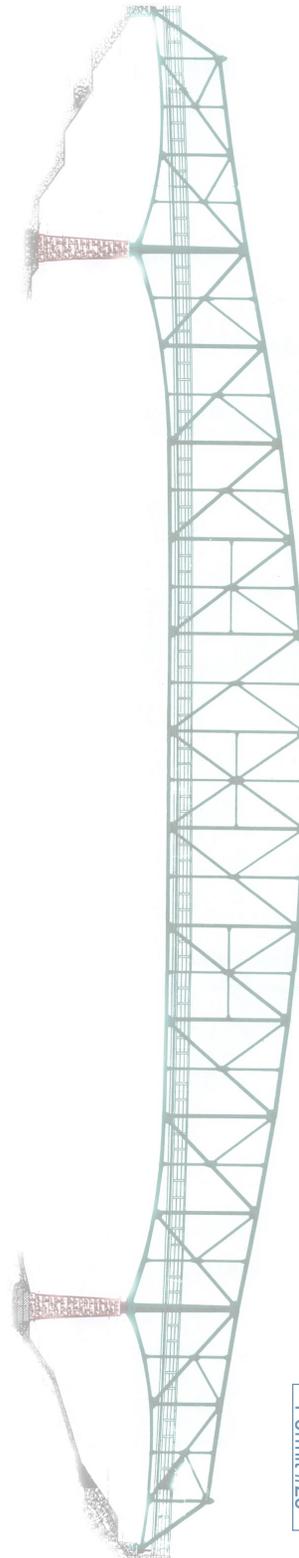
directs visitors to the office, which is in the southeast corner of the building; the entrance is just around the rear corner. Office hours will be posted soon.

In addition to opening an office, FSB has contracted a part-time executive director to spearhead increased activity in community relations and the raising of operational funds; FSB is pleased to report that Jennifer Tufts has accepted this challenge. See a message from Jennifer in another part of this newsletter; messages from the executive director will be a newsletter feature.

more - see "office continued ..."

FRIENDS OF SCHELL BRIDGE
P.O. Box 27
NORTHFIELD, MA 01360

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Northfield, MA
Permit #28



Friends of Schell Bridge seeks to save the century-old, architecturally-rare, and historically-significant Schell Memorial Bridge across the beautiful Connecticut River in the storied town of Northfield, Massachusetts, and to restore the bridge as a critical trail link in the evolving biking, hiking, and recreational activity scene in the Massachusetts/Vermont/New Hampshire tri-state area.

office continued ...

The ability to open an office and hire an executive director has been made possible, in large part, by partnering with the

Greater Northfield Watershed Association



Preserving
Water ■ Land ■ Wildlife

Greater Northfield Watershed Association (GNWA). GNWA will pay half of the cost of the office space and has also hired Jennifer as a part-time executive director.

With these developments (office, executive director, GNWA partner) FSB is moving to an exciting new level of activity and commitment. Your support of this new venture is critical and greatly appreciated.

And be sure and stop by the office, talk with Jennifer, and pick up a copy of the impressive FSB strategic plan if you don't already have one.



Friends of Schell Bridge Membership Form
memberships and donations are tax-deductible

Name _____ Schell Saver \$100

Address _____ Bridge Booster \$50

City, State _____ Family \$25

Zip _____ Phone _____ Individual \$15

Email _____ Student \$5

I prefer to receive news and alerts via email. Other

I would like to volunteer to **help save Schell Bridge.**

Mail to: Friends of Schell Bridge, P.O. Box 27, Northfield, MA 01360

Friends of Schell Bridge is a nonprofit 501c3 corporation - for more information visit www.schellbridge.org or call 413-498-4364



From the Executive Director

Greetings, Friends of Schell Bridge! I am so pleased to be joining

the exceptional leadership at FSB as the organization takes an important step toward implementing the Strategic Plan by reaching out more intensively to form key partnerships in the wider community. My job also is to raise funds to keep FSB going and growing. While grant aid is always welcome, and I believe we offer donors an exciting opportunity to preserve a treasured cultural and ecological landscape here in Northfield, I am convinced that our organization's greatest strength is its own membership. Your commitment, gifts, and talents are going to be the backbone of any successful campaign to save the bridge and build a vibrant Northfield community.

I am contacting groups in the Connecticut River Valley and throughout the State of Massachusetts to be sure that our initiative is well known and appreciated. It is encouraging to find friends at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the CT River Watershed Council, the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, The Trustees of Reservations, and Mt. Grace Land Trust, just to name a few who have expressed interest and offered assistance.

Each of us has contacts in the community, so please don't hesitate to share your ideas for how to spread the word. I am available to speak to church and civic groups, to contact potential donors, and to follow up with information wherever it is needed. Already we have established an important alliance with some of our closest neighbors by teaming up to open an office with the Greater Northfield Watershed Association. I look forward to seeing you at our Open House on October 20th!



Joint FSB/GNWA Open House

Date: Saturday, Oct 20, 2007

Time: 4:00-6:00 PM

Place: Green Trees Gallery
105 Main Street, Northfield

Come help celebrate the new office, the partnership between the two organizations, and the bright prospects for the future. *Formal invitations will be sent.*

At 2pm GNWA will hold a business meeting and at 3pm there will be a public presentation by river steward Andrea Donlon.



Another Arts Fest Success

FSB had a booth again this year at the local Arts Festival. Lots of folks stopped by to peruse great displays and to engage in stimulating bridge discussions. Some became new members, some bought yard signs and/or note cards, and some bought (and displayed!) Save the Schell tee shirts.



Construction Costs – 3 Options

Timber deck on existing stringers	\$ 6,000,000
Glue Laminated Deck with Glue Laminated Beams	\$ 7,000,000
Glue Laminated Deck	\$ 7,500,000

Engineering Firm Nails Down Bridge Rehabilitation Costs

The 2007 Friends of Schell Bridge annual meeting took place June 23 in the Northfield Elementary School cafeteria, with an attendance of about 60 people. The draw was a public design charrette of the bridge and associated trails by the renowned engineering firm of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. [VHB].

VHB representatives conducted the charrette after a brief FSB business meeting, at which Susan Gentile, Peter Talmage, and Steven & Heather Tower were elected to the FSB board of directors (Steve and Heather will share one director position).

The photo above is, of one of the slides presented by VHB, and close inspection (sorry about the poor photo quality) shows that rehabilitation of the Schell will cost between \$6,000,000 and \$7,500,000. Other slides indicated that approximately \$125,000 would be needed for a bridge inspection report and another \$750,000 for the detailed engineering design. All told, the rehabilitation would cost somewhere between \$6,875,000 and \$8,375,000.

These numbers are right in line with those from bridge contractor Michael Renaud, and likely represent the true costs despite other estimates, higher and lower.

Adding a couple million dollars to endow future maintenance, it seems pretty firm now that 10 million dollars should suffice.

