



Preserving History
Connecting Communities

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Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail Newsletter January 2012

In 2011, Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail (ECRT) continued to educate and advocate for the rail-banking of the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad.

- *Held monthly meetings*
- *Met with local officials and organizations*
- *Helped strengthen support groups in Colden, Concord & Springville*
- *Prepared rail trail visioning maps and materials*

Parks & Trails New York Support

We especially appreciate the \$900 grant and other assistance received from Parks & Trails New York as well as the opportunity to participate in the Finger Lakes Trail and Greenway Conference.

Rail Banking Talks Continue

NYS Parks demonstrated their commitment by extending rail-banking negotiations with B&PR through May 2012. We are pleased that NYS Parks is willing to pursue rail-banking during these fiscally challenging times.

Springville Held Two Public Walks On The B&PR

The Village of Springville successfully negotiated two one-time access agreements with B&P Railroad. With the support of Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail, Lowe's and local volunteers, two rail trail walks were held. The first in February and second in October. More trail walks are planned. Springville officials hope to negotiate a permanent access agreement in 2012.

Colden and Concord Citizens Build Support

Colden/Concord Citizens For A Community Trail published an informational brochure and sent it to every household in Colden and Concord. Through open communication and grass root efforts they are successfully building support among residents and local officials.

Regional Economic Development Councils

Governor Cuomo created a new regional structure for state project development that impacts the process of rail banking the B&P Railroad. Regional councils will now set the project priorities for a five county region. Our region includes Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Allegany Counties. ECRT needs the support of the WNY Regional Council for the state to move forward with rail banking and trail development. Advocacy efforts in 2012 will focus on developing WNY Regional Council support.

Support The Rail Trail By Becoming A Member

*Your membership in ECRT is important. It demonstrates the level of community support to state and regional officials. **Basic membership is free**, though should you be able, please consider a donation when you renew.*

2012 Activities

In 2012, donations will go toward advocacy efforts, communication and web site improvement. ECRT is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

*Thank you for your support and "Happy Trails",
Anne S. Bergantz, President Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail, Inc.*