

ALL ABOARD!

—THE CAMPAIGN FOR—
LAKES REGION MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM



Introduction

The Model Railroad Museum Board of Directors has embarked on an ambitious campaign to open the first of its kind New England railroad museum in the center of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.

This project will transform the original Wolfeboro 1872 Freight House into an interactive, educational, historical, and high-tech learning center for all ages. The LRMRM will be a destination for visitors and New Hampshire residents and a cultural resource that tells the story of the railroad and its profound impact on New Hampshire communities.

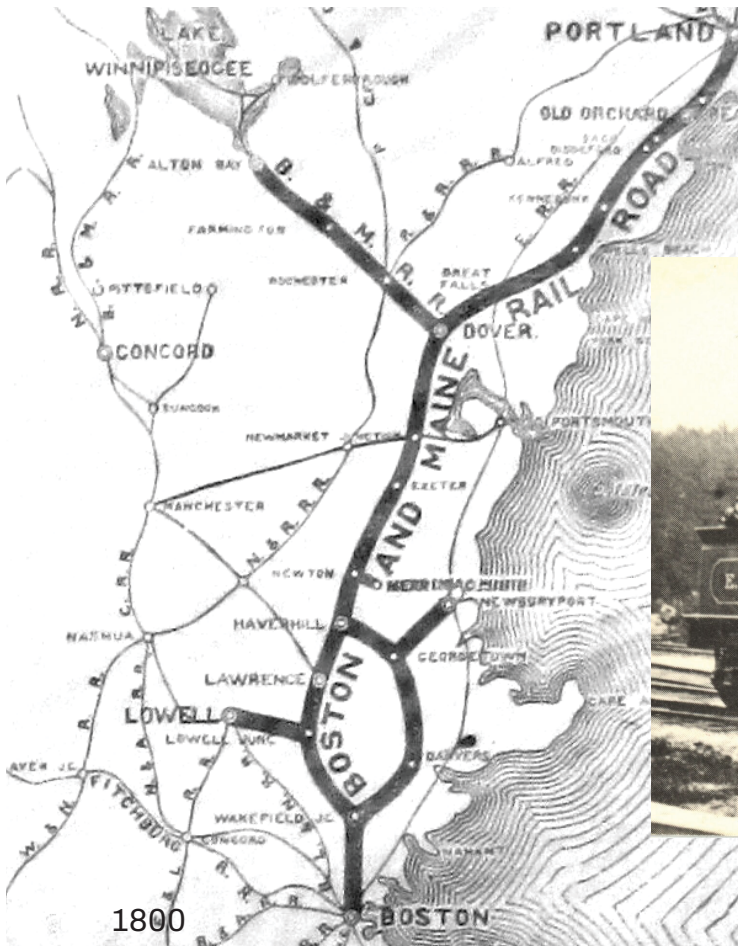
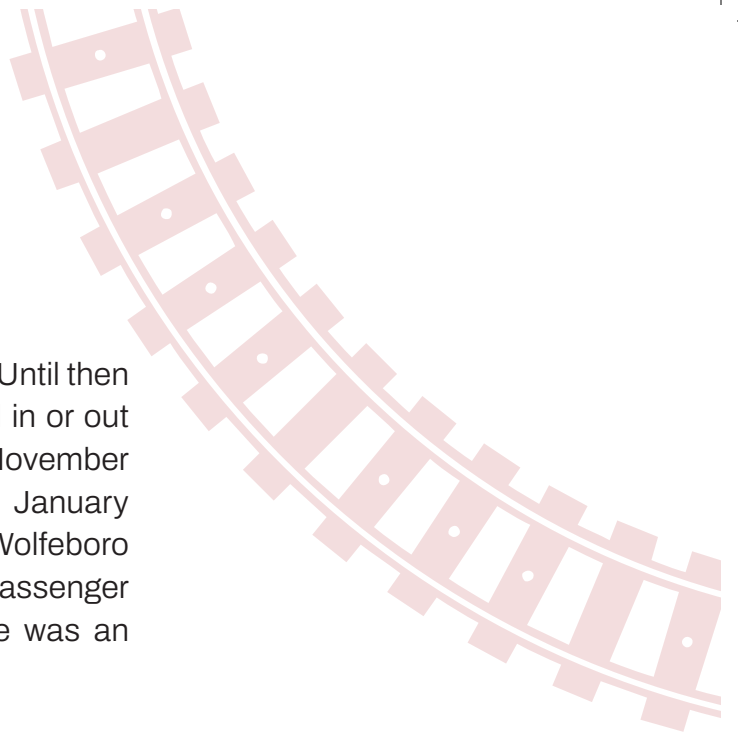
LRMRM is dedicated to celebrating the heritage of the railroads and providing educational and entertaining programming utilizing model railroading as a comprehensive tool to teach the real-life applications of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to support and enrich what students are learning in school.





History, Preservation, and the Future

The Wolfeboro Railroad was incorporated on July 1, 1868. Until then stagecoach and steamboat were the only means of travel in or out of Wolfeboro. Ground was broken near Mast Landing in November 1871 and Eastern Railroad signed an operating lease in January 1872. By the end of the year the rail line from Wakefield to Wolfeboro was complete, including construction of the Wolfeboro passenger station, and freight house. The Wolfeboro Freight House was an integral part of this transportation system.



July 1, 1868

The Wolfeboro Railroad is incorporated

November 1871

Railroad breaks ground near Mast Landing

January 6, 1872

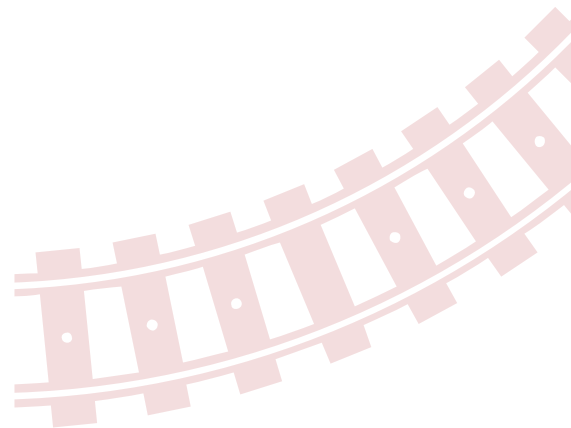
Eastern Railroad signs lease to operate the Wolfeboro line.
(The Freight House is part of this system.)

The railroad changed isolated agricultural villages into busy manufacturing centers and turned Wolfeboro into the bustling resort town it is today. Manufacturing and shipping facilities in Wolfeboro expanded, shipping out lumber products, woolen blankets, shoes, matches, clay pipes, and more. Fast economical rail transportation to the big cities now made it possible to work in Boston or Portland while living in Wolfeboro, commuting by train. Carriages from local inns and taverns met each train, competing for the tourist dollars. Baggage, mail, newspapers, and freight now arrived by train, making the Freight House in Wolfeboro the center of all this commercial and industrial activity.

The last train on the Wolfeboro line ran on June 15, 1986, and in 1987, the Town of Wolfeboro purchased the main line to Wakefield and its right of way from Boston & Maine Railroad, who had absorbed the Eastern Railroad, for a walking path, ending all possible use of the station and the Freight House for their original purposes. In 2016, the Town purchased the Freight House, with a plan for it to be removed and replaced by parking. Preservation-minded citizens blocked this plan.

Preserving the Past

The LRMRM was formed in 2017 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation to preserve and restore the deteriorating Freight House and create an interactive, educational, hands-on living museum for generations ahead. While the Town of Wolfeboro owns the building and the lot, LRMRM has a rent-free 10-year lease from the Town, renewable by the Museum for an additional ten years with the same terms. In January 2021, the Freight House was added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.



1900



June 15, 1986

Last train runs on the Wolfeboro line



2016

The Town of Wolfeboro purchases the Freight House



2017

LRMRM forms as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit



2021

Freight House added to the NH State Register of Historic Places.

Fast Track to the Future

Visitors to the LRMRM will learn about the beginning days of the railroad, the numerous owners and visionaries that transformed transportation through the late 1980s, and the eventual closing of the Wolfeboro Station.

High Tech — Interactive

The Museum will be an extensive high-tech learning center with a multi-level interactive model railroad with a detailed reconstruction of early 1900s towns, including Wolfeboro and the line to Sanbornville, with sidings and switches in each town sufficient to support railroad operations. The model layout will represent the actual railways at the time, additional trackage, yards, switches, and complexity not present in the actual railway layouts will be added to make the model an exciting challenge for operations. QR codes and smartphone links with recorded narrative history will be available for each historically significant place, building, and event depicted in the model.

Get Your Hands On This

Visitors will be able to drive a train on the layout. Simple, computer-restricted activities for the novice youngster and more extensive operating sessions for the experienced hobbyist are planned to create an enjoyable experience for all. Additionally, customized software will allow multiple operators with different skill levels to engage simultaneously, with various trackage layouts for operating complexity for hobbyists, with systems in place to prevent derailling and collisions.

This complex software-driven electromechanical system will be used to build on those positive experiences and encourage participants to explore the underlying STEM principles, emphasizing innovation, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Visitors will be encouraged to explore the technical aspects of the model layout, from scheduling operations to writing software, from maintaining locomotives to modeling buildings.



STEM Programming, Job Training, and More

Our vision includes creating year-round STEM programming for students and job training opportunities for adults. We have begun outreach to local schools, clubs, and camps to identify the instructional needs of their students and members and will work with them to adapt an existing K-12 STEM curriculum based on model railroads. Additionally, we are working with a local resident with expertise in technology transfer from NASA to schools to assist with the execution of the curriculum. Over 150 years of innovation will be represented in these programs ranging from the production and use of steam in the industrial age, the transition to internal combustion to diesel-electric locomotives. Students studying math, science, history, and art can observe how those subjects come alive in an industry that has long played an essential part in their community.

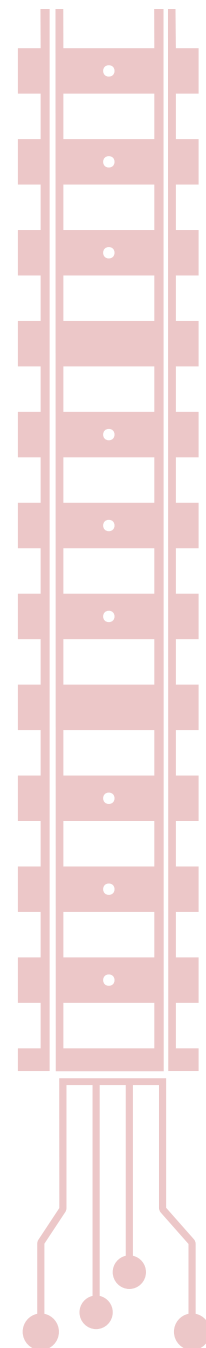
A Youth Club working with docents and an Adult Club for experienced hobbyists is planned to expand the youth and adult programming resources in the Lakes Region.

Displays, Exhibits, and Archives

Through the Museum's collection of artifacts, archival material, videos, first-hand instruction, and interactive displays, visitors will learn of the Region's rich heritage of historical stories through the railroad's lens.

Creating the Roadbed

The Museum Board of Directors and many other volunteers have worked diligently for the past six years to formulate a vision and business plan, secure funding, and develop programming. The Board recognizes that the broader, future museum presentation will need an infusion of human and financial capital beyond building the physical structure and contents within the Museum. Key strategic priorities are: Board development, marketing, fundraising, and the establishment of an endowment.



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\$1,124,000



Phase I: Restoration and Preservation

Goal: \$292,000

Completed

The Town of Wolfeboro provided \$95,000 toward the rehabilitation of the Freight House. An LCHIP Grant supplied an additional \$130,000 and \$67,000 has been raised from private contributions. With Phase I complete, and all financial obligations to contractors met, the Museum is now in Phase II.

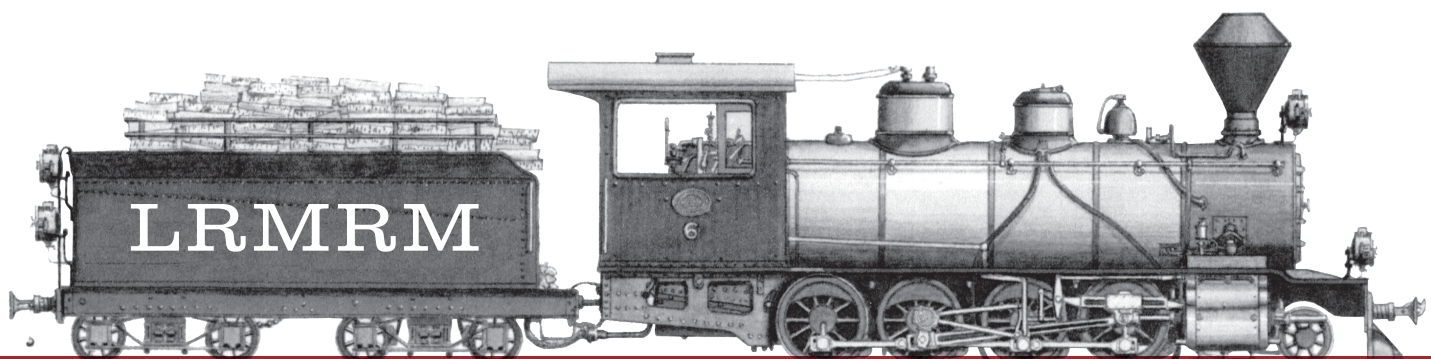
Phase II: Infrastructure

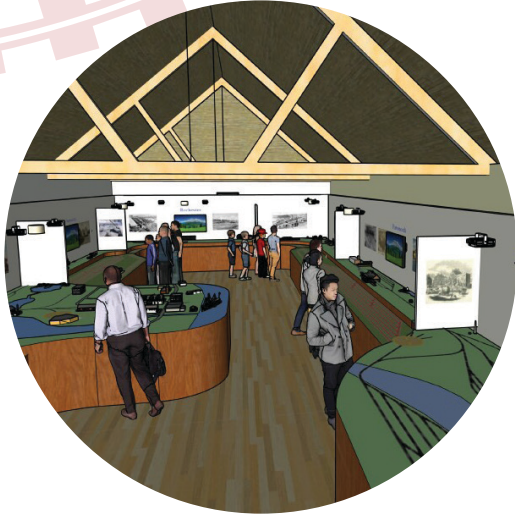
Goal: \$259,000

More than 50% to Goal.

Target Date for Completion, Fall 2023

\$159,000 has been raised from individual philanthropy, leaving \$100,000 to be raised in Phase II. The Museum is currently working on the interior of the restored building. New energy-efficient HVAC systems, bathrooms, electrical and plumbing, and Museum housing (a box-in-a-box concept) is being installed and is continuing according to plan.





Phase III: Inside the Museum

Goal: \$300,000

Target Date for Completion, Late 2024

This Phase includes planning and installing the interior displays and exhibits, benchwork, trackwork, scenery, software, hardware, and rolling stock. Phase III will end when the museum, with its layout, is ready for public presentation and use.

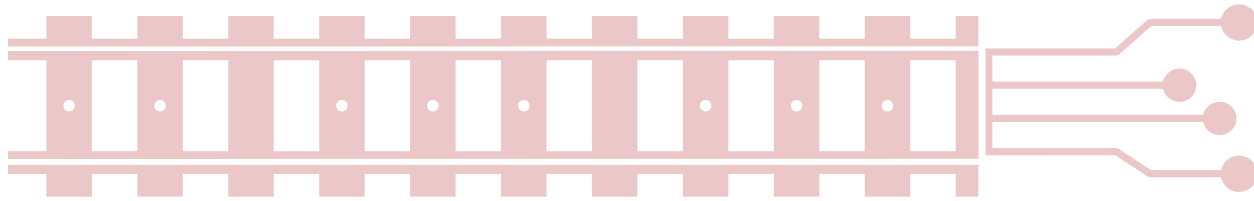


Phase IV: Launch

Goal: \$273,000

Target Date for Completion, mid-2025

The last phase consists of the remaining scope of work necessary to open the Museum to the public on a daily, year-round basis and provide access to the entire collection. Our focus will be on hiring the Museum director well before opening, start-up marketing and membership promotion, and events. The net costs for staffing and start-up operations for the first two years are included in this phase.



Contribute to the Mission to Educate, Inspire and Bring Joy to All Ages

We are committed to an expansion plan and a significant artifact restoration plan to continue our mission of preserving the past and utilizing state-of-the-art technology for the enjoyment and education of current and future generations.

We invite you to become a contributor and stakeholder in one of New England's most exciting museum projects. The LRMRM is the **only interactive model railroad museum in New England** with the ability to educate visitors and students with hands-on engagement depicting the railroad's social, economic, political, and technological influence on the Lakes Region's life and culture.

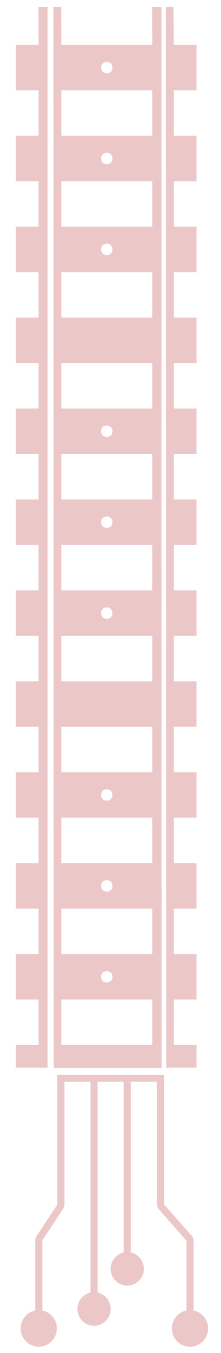
Every dollar makes a difference. Your support today enables the LRMRM to continue its capital construction project on time while making you a valued Contributor of Record to generations of beneficiaries to come.



Questions?

Email info@lrmrm.org or call John Simms at (603) 569-9474





Our Commitment to You

BEGINNING IN 2024, LRMRM WILL—

Hire Professional Staff

LRMRM will recruit a full-time professional Executive Director and support staff to develop and implement the Museum's business operations, begin membership recruitment, fundraising, and program development, and launch this dynamic new addition to Wolfeboro's cultural landscape.

Recruit, train, and retain Docents

Our docents will provide individual and group learning experiences through museum demonstrations and instructions and oversee our Youth Club.

Prepare for the Educational Experience

Develop STEM curricula for introducing local youth to the technology underlying the model railroad and teaching them to use their skills to support the museum and to prepare them for a technical future.

Create a Plan to Add a Passenger Car

A passenger car alongside the loading dock of the Freight House would create additional space for workshops, presentations, and instruction.

Seek Input

Continually seek input on user experiences for process and program improvements and greater engagement.

Establish an Endowment

Based on an understanding of real-time data on Museum patronage and demand for programming, raise funds for an endowment that will support program expansion and outreach in the years ahead.



LRMRM
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