

New Gate Built for Head Pond Road

By Larry Gomes, Trail Master

Milan Trail Huggers

October 27, 2018

A new gate was built by club member Keith Masters last week. Keith responded to an email sent out to all club members asking for a volunteer welder to help with the project.

The steel for the gate was donated by Chapman Scrap Metal. The gate will be installed on Head Pond Road to protect the road and trail from 4-wheel drive traffic during mud season. Last year the club used 2 cement blocks with a chain to protect the newly rebuilt road, but last spring one of these blocks was moved and vehicles were able to get around it.

Early last week, Keith made the trip over to the scrap metal yard and picked out the steel he needed for the project and then spent the rest of the week welding it up.

On Friday night, trail master Larry Gomes brought over his flat-bed trailer and the gate was lifted onto the trailer and strapped down for the trip to Larry's garage.

On his way back, Larry stopped at Steve Adario's house in Milan and picked up primer and paint supplies that were purchased by Steve.

Larry then warmed up the gate overnight in his garage, sanded it down and primed it on Saturday.

The State of New Hampshire is currently doing some excavator work in the area and when that work is done, the gate will be installed. Club board member Leo Couture has volunteered his time to weld the base plates and gate locks in place on the day of the install using a portable welder donated by the White Mt. Ridge Runners snowmobile club.

There was a lot of coordination that went in to making all of this work, but because of the generous donations of volunteer time, materials and equipment, the club is able to protect the work done last year on the Head Pond Connector Trail for less than \$100.00. Normally it costs \$3,000.00 just to purchase a steel gate and installation is extra.

Our thanks go out to Chapman Scrap Metal for the material, to White Mt. Ridge Runners for their welder and to Keith, Leo, Steve and Larry for their great work in making this project a reality with very limited funding!



New steel gate loaded on trailer ready for transport. Even though scrap steel was used, it will be just like new after a thorough sanding and a coat of oil-based primer.



Gate sanded and primed ready for installation. Steel plates will be welded on the bottom of the posts just prior to installation so they cannot tilt. The bottom 3-feet of the posts were not prepped or painted since they will be underground.