

Country Squires Presentation, September 2020

New Hampshire Rail Trails

Presented by Charles Martin

On September 10 we will be zooming the long delayed talk by Charles Martin. Charles will introduce us to one of the lesser known New Hampshire treasures, Rail Trails. He is the author of the guidebook, *New Hampshire Rail Trails* and founder of the New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition. Here is an outline of the talk and some details on Charles' professional background. One of the best outdoor opportunities for New Hampshire residents is the system of trails created from abandoned railroad corridors. This talk tells how these trails are created, describes various types of trails, and surveys the state's available rail trails. They provide a mixture of excellent scenery and visits to the center of towns. As we get older, the new "e-bike" technology can give us the boost needed to continue riding these trails. Particular attention will be given to the Northern Rail Trail (Lebanon to Boscawren) and its extraordinary set of historic artifacts.

Charles Martin received his bachelor's degree at Harvard and PhD at the University of California. His career at General Electric, Booz-Allen, The Analytic Sciences Corporation, and Valogix emphasized mathematical algorithms and systems analysis. He wrote the first guide to whitewater rivers in California in 1974. After retiring and moving to New Hampshire, he authored two editions of the guidebook, *New Hampshire Rail Trails*. Charles was the founder of the New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition, a group fostering communication among the state's groups of rail trail volunteers. He is a member of the Board of the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail.