

## 5 questions for a railroad historian

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Railroad historian Ken Cushing, who is writing a book on the history of the Northern Railroad, will speak at the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail annual meeting at the Danbury Community Center June 19 at 7 p.m. Cushing tells the Monitor about the railroad and what it was like when freight and passenger trains barreled through small New Hampshire towns each day.

How long did the railroad operate? In 1847, it was chartered; took them two years to build the thing. And I believe it was 1989 when it was abandoned by the Boston and Maine Railroad. By that time, they only had two trains running a day. In 1893, they had 22 trains running through here.

What was it used for? It used to be the main line between Boston and Montreal. It was going to be a link to the . . . United States and Canada.

Which part of the line was the Northern Railroad? It's from Concord to White River Junction.

How did it change the communities along the rail? Prior to that, it was very agricultural. Where the station was eventually became the commerce center of the town.

How long have you been working on the railroad history book? Four years. I'm looking for information, so if anybody should have some information, pictures or stories on this, I'd like to hear from them at 603-523-7060.

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