

Rivendell Farm

Letter to the editor

About a month ago, while driving back to Woodstock from Britton's Lumber, I decided to take the River Rd. to visit a stone project I did many years ago at Rivendell Farm for Peg and Lou Kannenstine. They commissioned me to rebuild a section of wall that had completely fallen apart. My challenge was to reconstruct it using the existing stone and some trucked in local material for the base and tie stones, and I also had to consider the fact that it was very close to the road and had to endure vibrations from cars, plow trucks, people walking on it, and the Vermont freeze and thaw cycle. I have driven past this project many times since it was completed and photographed it May 2016, proud of the fact that the part I rebuilt had not moved at all. It was a very structurally sound wall. When I came upon Rivendell Farm that day a month ago, I was deeply saddened and angry about the destruction I saw. The wall I rebuilt was gone, most of the beautiful trees were leveled, and I wondered how much wildlife was forced to scatter. I was also upset about the demolition of the Kannenstine's house, and the removal all of the stone work I did around it. I feel that what was there was a good representation of Woodstock and a small part of Vermont. I know that twenty years from now most people won't know of the destruction that took place on River Rd. in 2017, but right now it's an open wound, and wounds eventually heal.

I hope the new owners will do right by Woodstock and all that frequent River Rd. because of its old Vermont charm, and try to restore it to be a part of Woodstock and Vermont we can all be proud of.

To see photos of some of what was there please visit.
<http://www.hectorsantos.com/rivendell-farm>

—Hector Santos