

Donors to Restore Old Depot



Photo Courtesy Bill Dipaolo Palm Beach Post

Plans call for the 1915 railway depot to become a museum.

Local roofers, general contractors and electricians have agreed to donate time and materials to restore the historic Florida East Coast Railway depot that last April was moved from Tequesta closer to its original home on the Loxahatchee River.

“We are doing our best to restore it as it was. We are trying to make it historically accurate.” project manager Mary Therese Delate said.

Jupiter paid about \$111,000 to load the wooden depot built in 1915 onto a truck and move it from Seabrook Road to Sawfish Bay Park. The 2-mile trip along Alternate A1A that started at 3 a.m. took about two hours, stopping along the way for a train to pass along the FEC tracks.

The Loxahatchee Guild is leading the effort to raise \$160,000 to restore the 22 by 53 foot wooden structure. A gala is planned for January 24.



By Bill Dipaola—Palm Beach Post Writer

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When completed, plans call for the depot—once a stop on Henry Flagler’s railroad from Jacksonville to Key West—to be a museum. The depot also will be available for public rentals for reunions, weddings and other events. Delate said.

Outside renovations include a new roof, replacing worn structural boards with original Dade County pine, and painting. The inside has been gutted to restore the changes made when Betty Bush, publisher of the now-defunct Beacon News, installed windows, doors, a fire place, two bathrooms and a kitchen to make the depot her home on Seabrook Road.

Bush died in 1997. Tequesta bought the 2 acre property in 2011 for \$225,000. The village, which plans to turn the property into a park, gave the depot to Jupiter.

One major renovation will be the installation of air-conditioning in the building, which was originally on the east side of the FEC tracks, across from Bell’s Mobile Home Park. A sign reading Johnston Park marks the location.

The train depot is part of an overall plan to develop the Sawfish Bay site into a commercial/recreation area. The town plans to restore the Old Train Depot.

Photos following.



HISTORY TOWN OF JUPITER

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