



Sunrise Trail Coalition
PO Box 113
Franklin, ME 04634
www.sunrisetrail.org

Board of Directors

Stephen Rees, President
Ian Staub, Treasurer
Carol Cuddy, Membership
Raymond Archer
Bill Ceckler
Polly Ceckler
Andy Gallant
Charlie Harrington
Hollis Hills
Sandy Johnson
Sharon Mack
Charles Robinson
Arthur Tenan
Dave Wood

Staff Support

Charlie Corliss, MeACF
Dan Stewart, MeDOT
James Fisher, HCPC
Crystal Hitchings, WCCOG

Greetings to all Sunrise Trail Coalition Members!

I am pleased to be sending you this mini-newsletter with updates about the Down East Sunrise Trail and the Sunrise Trail Coalition. Another wonderful Summer Season has passed, and whether walking or riding the Trail, now we are enjoying spectacular colorful fall foliage along the Trail. Let's hope for plenty of snow this winter for skiing and snowmobiling.

With our membership growing and increasing numbers of new users on the Trail, I thought it timely to give new members a brief history of the Rail-to-Trail conversion and to point out the many benefits enjoyed by all as a result of the Trail's existence and the continuing efforts of the Sunrise Trail Coalition to assist in the management of the Trail. I'll also let you know about some upcoming events and opportunities to get involved.

Please contact the coalition if you need our support and possible assistance for trail-related projects or events in your community. Visit our website, www.sunrisetrail.org and find us on Facebook to receive announcements about trail events and seasonal opportunities for many types of recreational users -- snowmobilers, skiers, bicycle riders, hikers, ATV riders and more.

In closing, enjoy the Trail and continue to walk and ride responsibly for your safety and the safety of all those other users along the Trail.

Stephen D. Rees, Sr., President, Sunrise Trail Coalition, Inc.



Sunrise Trail Coalition News



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is time to renew your Membership for 2014! As a member-based organization we depend on your Membership renewal and generous donations to provide us with necessary working capital to maintain our many programs throughout each year. Please invite your family and friends to join if not already Members. It is now even more convenient to join or renew with our online membership processing. With a few clicks of the mouse you can support the trail with your tax-deductable membership and join our growing and enthusiastic family. Visit www.sunrisetrail for the membership link or to download paper membership forms as you prefer. We have included a printed renewal form here if you prefer to write a check and use regular mail.

BENEFITS FROM TRAIL USE

- Reducing roadway congestion
- Increasing transportation options
- Connecting people and communities
- Raising property values along the Trail
- Increasing tax base for municipalities along the Trail
- Creating a destination place for tourism in Down East Maine
- Enhancing local economic development and redevelopment
- Providing venue for special events and activities and attractions
- Improving public health by empowering safe recreational activities
- Creating construction, reconstruction and maintenance jobs along the Trail
- Creating new and pleasant public spaces for local residents' and tourists' use
- Providing four season use for walkers, joggers, hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, ATV and snowmobile riders, skiers, dog sleds, snowshoers, nature enthusiasts, photographers
- Lowering air pollution by substituting car trips with non motorized transportation modes
- Providing independence for non-drivers such as children, the elderly, persons without vehicles



FROM RAIL TO TRAIL – A BRIEF HISTORY

The Calais Branch Railroad Corridor was a 127 mile long rail corridor for freight and passenger service between Brewer and Calais.

In 1987 this Corridor was acquired by the State of Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) from the Maine Central Railroad, and service was thereafter ceased.

After an analysis of the business potential to support future potential freight service was determined not to be economically feasible due to uncertainty of demand and high capital cost to reactivate the railroad, then Governor Baldacci on July 15, 2005 charged MDOT with developing a Trail Management and Maintenance Plan for an interim multi-use trail along 87 miles of the Corridor between Ellsworth and Ayers Junction.



MDOT formed the Calais Branch Trail Management Committee whose membership included Maine Department of Conservation (MDOC), law enforcement units, the National Park Service, the municipalities in Hancock and Washington Counties, regional planning and economic development agencies, and local citizen trail groups. This Committee was to develop a Management and Maintenance Plan for the rehabilitation of the Corridor and subsequent construction of the Trail.

This Plan recommended the Bureau of Parks and Lands of MDOC be the long-term manager of this multi-use Trail and Corridor due to its extensive experience in the construction and management of other multi-use trails throughout Maine. MDOT and the Bureau entered into an agreement to oversee the Corridor rehabilitation, subsequent Trail construction, and long-term management and maintenance of the Trail, while preserving the Corridor for possible future railroad use.

The Sunrise Trail Coalition, organized more than a decade earlier, was enlisted to provide public support for the Trail Manager and to represent the various interests of the multi-users of the Trail.

Construction would entail removal of the substandard rails, repair of washouts, placement of decking over bridges, rehabilitation of the Corridor, and construction of a 12-foot wide, compact gravel base. Total cost was estimated to be \$3.9 million financed by sale of the rails, ties and other hardware.

Construction began spring 2008 along the easterly 49 miles from Machias to Ayers Junction. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held January 31, 2009 at Ayers Junction for the opening of these 49 miles to winter activities. Construction began in the spring of 2009 for the remaining 36 miles from Machias to Washington Junction and was completed in the fall of 2010. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Washington Junction in September 2010. Please view our Website, www.sunrisetrail.org, for further details and photos of these two historic ceremonies.

FUTURE PROJECTS AND EVENTS

The coalition continues to provide a local community-oriented organization that participates with local communities in promoting events and activities benefitting various groups and the general public.

Again this fall on Sunday, October 20, at the Cherryfield Cable Pool Park adjacent to the Trail, Friend & Friend and the Coalition hosted a BBQ at which time raffles, giveaways and other fun activities were held. We extend our thanks to Friend & Friend for their continuing sponsorship of this fun family event from which all proceeds benefit the Coalition!



One unique future event coming next spring to Machias will be a Story Walk along the trail. A children's book will be selected; the pages copied and laminated; the laminated pages will be affixed to small sign panels placed along the edge of the trail, with a distance between them of 40 paces for a total of ½ mile. The coalition is proud to be associated with this new project which combines benefits of physical activity, time spent outdoors in nature, education and family time. We thank Cindy Thompson, Machias Memorial High School Librarian who is the Chairperson of the Community Literacy Team, for bringing this exciting project to our attention.

Also in Machias, the coalition will honor the life of our deceased founder, Sally Jacobs, this fall by landscaping an area near the information kiosk in preparation for the installation of a granite memorial bench. We thank her family and friends for their donations so that all Trail users will learn about Sally's two-decade commitment to make this Trail become a reality! A dedication ceremony is planned to take place next May or June when members of her family will be able to attend. At that time the bench with a special plaque will be installed at the newly landscaped kiosk area. Check our website next spring for more details.

In Franklin along the Trail, the Coalition will also honor the life of Brendon Michael Potter by installing a granite memorial bench with a special plaque. We thank his family and friends for their donations so that his life and love of the Trail will be forever recognized.

In Cherryfield, the Coalition is collaborating with local citizens and the Washington County Council of Governments for convenient tourist accommodations along the Bold Coast Scenic Byway to study the feasibility of restoring the former Cherryfield Train Depot located on Main Street to be a railroad Museum and a tourist information kiosk. Donations earmarked for this future project may be made to the Sunrise Trail Coalition.



Sunrise Trail Coalition Membership Application / Renewal



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ Date: _____

Please include your email address. Much of our information goes out via e-mail. Please indicate if you do not have e-mail. We will send your messages and newsletters via U.S. Postal Service.

Club or Organizational Affiliation (if applicable) _____

Membership levels (Circle all that apply)

\$15	Individual	\$50	Business
\$25	Individual Advocate	\$100	Business Bronze
\$500	Individual Life	\$150	Business Silver
\$20	Family	\$200	Business Gold
\$25	Non/Profit or Club	\$250	Business Platinum
	Other Amount \$ _____		Business Charter - Please contact us

Please print and mail this form with your check made out to “Sunrise Trail Coalition.” to:

Ian Staub, Treasurer
 Sunrise Trail Coalition
 PO Box 113
 Franklin, ME 04634

The Sunrise Trail Coalition is a publicly supported non-profit charitable 501 (c) 3 organization. Dues are tax deductible.

The Sunrise Trail Coalition purpose as stated in our By-Laws:

“The purpose of the STC shall be to promote outdoor recreation, health and fitness, and economic development in Hancock and Washington Counties in the State of Maine through education and the development of an integrated on- and off-road four-season, shared-use trail system.”