

Sunrise Trail Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Lunch
Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM
EdGE Center, Cherryfield
Minutes

Call to order – Steve 12:30

Introductions:

Members Present: Steve Rees, Crystal Hitchings, Charlie Corliss, Jim Fischer, Polly Ceckler, Sandy Johnson, Carol Cuddy, Ray Archer, Bill Ceckler, Jerry Nasberg, Charlie Robinson, Margaret Robinson, Ian Staub, Andy Gallant, Kathy Upton, Charlie Harrington, Leslie Harlow

Annual Election Meeting

Determine Quorum of Directors and Membership

Confirmed Proxies voted on-line or mailed - no new candidates were written in, voters unanimously supported the slate.

- Ray Archer, Charlie Harrington, Bill Ceckler, renewed, 3 years
- Sharon Mack, MBACC, newly elected, 3years
- John Marchese, owner of Calais Motor Inn, newly elected 2 years, president of Calais ATV club, supports effort to extend trail to Calais

Motion to adjourn annual meeting election, Carol Cuddy, seconded by Ian Staub

Brief Organizational Board Meeting - deferred

Regular Board Meeting 12:36

Approval of Minutes for September 17, 2015 - Motion to accept by Ian, 2nd by Charlie Robinson. Approved with no revisions.

Update Report: Status of Cherryfield RR depot renovation/funding request: Kathy Upton

Kathy is president of Cherryfield Narraguagus Historical Society and co-director of the Cherryfield library. The Depot is one of a kind, may be nothing like it in the whole state, this one looks like it did the day they walked out. Working mechanisms still intact, an important piece of Cherryfield and Washington county history. Built in 1898. Moved the station to its current location in 1984; bought it for 1\$ rather than tear it down. Has sat empty since. Not feasible to move it due to cost of removing the utilities. Would have to be torn apart and moved in pieces. It originally sat right off Route 193 at parking lot between two blueberry factories. Have talked about various uses over the years. Last year the Historical Society fixed the roof. Put in about 9k to roof and other small things. Received 15k through Davis Family Foundation. Now have a solid contract for

foundation work with a local contractor. Want to do steel posts; bid is 22,500K. CNHS does not have the funds at this time to pay the extra 7,500. Would like to see the building as a small rest stop, information center. The presence of regional trails such as the BCSB, BWSB, DEST, DFT, and MIAT makes this the ideal spot in conjunction with the small park. Property behind railroad station would be lovely spot for picnic tables, or benches. Station is solid, needs cosmetic work. Larger room could be used as meeting space, would create small display of railroad memorabilia. Here today to ask for money not used on the Machias station.

Discussion by the group:

5,643\$ remains in the Machias account. At Moosehorn tour, went to Ayers Junction and talked of historical significance but lack of welcoming departure/arrival/interest. Using history and trailhead points to provide information is good idea to pursue.

Cherryfield structure is unique, have an opportunity with trailhead kiosk to inform and direct users on trail of existence of depot. Bathroom facility at depot solves privy question.

Geographical intersection with byways will provide opportunities for historical societies to flourish. Close enough for bicycles and pedestrians, there may be a way to legally get ATV's there who could and would use the depot facility.

Not prepared to ask for vote today, but would like to see the contract to distribute to the board. Quid pro quo – envision portion of facility dedicated to DEST with supporting funds – card rack or other informational materials. Staffing is critical to success. Opportunity to increase DEST membership locally to help with staffing of the depot. It is a good deal for Coalition to have communities restoring historical facilities and weave this into tourism.

Significant progress has been made on the Machias box car renovation, need to evaluate remaining funds, have other monies that could also be used for Cherryfield. Another opportunity is that the additional land could be a bare camp opportunity if mile 32 wasn't available.

Board member comments:

Ian- \$5,600 in Machias fund and \$1,000 in Bangor Savings. Propose giving BS grant, maybe another 1k out of \$5,600, need to be guaranteed space in the station. Same thing for Machias in exchange for dedicated space. Ayers junction – want a historical kiosk talking about the old transfer station. President Roosevelt went through there, which should be marked.

Leslie – fact that it was significant to that place deserves some sort of kiosk or interpretive sign

Steve- need records from Sally and or Bill to reconstruct communication re the Machias station grant, need to get approval for disbursements deviating from original tasks, could create concrete proposal for Cherryfield.

Ian-we've been discussing using the money for a privy at Washington junction. Keep talking about it but have never done it, keep renting a privy, not sure how long the cost will be honored before it goes up.

Leslie – maybe need to think about long-term strategy, look at what we'll do with grant money. Condition of trail brought up a lot by people traveling here to use the trail. Some people leave without positive view of the trail.

Steve- last October meeting looking at immediate and short-term projects, need to do this every year, will do this shortly once Sharon and John can join.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update Report: Funding Sources Trail Surface Improvements

Funding for trail surface is complex; if pursuing grants or donor specific requests, must clearly identify where, what, and how. Earlier discussions with DOT, DOC, and Ellsworth recognize surface issues of DEST. Maintenance differs on all trails, have to focus this discussion on uniqueness of this trail, heavier use by motorized uses, have to accommodate all uses, DEST is balancing these potentially contentious issues, must communicate with agencies and departments what is heard at the ground, DEST is connection point between users and government.

Dan Stewart of MDOT suggested using money to resurface trail rather than extend it to Ellsworth. Bill followed up with Dan, Scott Ramsey said he would not support making the switch in monies since engineering had gone too far. If Ellsworth extension were dropped, no guarantee of money transfer – suggested approach state legislator for a bond line item.

Would only drop Ellsworth extension only if Ellsworth had serious reservations or if DOC and DOT didn't have funds. Contacted Michelle Gagnon, who said Ellsworth is seriously committed to project and will work through any issues.

A portion of the Ellsworth extension is zoned Wading Bird And Waterfowl Habitat, which requires natural resources protection permit. Ellsworth may be planning to remove that designation. Intent to file will be in newspaper shortly, bid package is ready to be sent out.

The fine materials of the trail surface are washing out. Not enough concrete available to crush to do the whole surface. Have some maintenance money, but is used with existing maintenance program. Thinks about 1.5 million is available for the extension.

Leslie met with David Cole and Michelle Gagnon, who support projects that will require more crosswalks (strong supporter of ped access). Time to have conversation with David and Michelle about the extension, may be strong possibilities to work well with David now that he is the city manager.

When Plymouth Engineering presented the design, there was agreement to proceed with design, Steve told Michelle that the Coalition wanted to work with the City on all aspects of bike/ped facility associated with trail extension, this is a good time to reconnect with Michelle about this.

Should politically not consider stopping Ellsworth extension, should pursue new surface in earnest to eliminate bad reports of trail surface.

Charlie Robinson reported that everyday he rides the trail he hears ATV's complain about the dust. Need to not lose focus on trail surface. Have a workshop meeting or something to discuss what can be done.

Ian noted that the Coalition is a 5013c and can apply for fed, state, and private grants. Need to get a grant writer to research and explore this. Once we have the money we can search for crushed concrete sources. Can be done in sections.

Andy noted that this is the first year people have complained about the surface. Locals are actually travelling elsewhere to ride due to the surface (dust, ruts, consistent)

National Parks Rivers Trails And Conservation Program staff person Julie Isbill will work with Schoodic byway committee, she's a great resource, well connected. Connecting with other trails and byways is a good idea for creating a recreational mecca.

Charlie Corliss gave a 20k/mile estimate for 6" crushed concrete. Cost may suggest smaller sections, smaller grants, which segments are priorities-Areas with recurring problems, long grades, population areas. Ellsworth, Machias, 5 miles out. Need a bigger budget for grading. Saving money on maintenance since have purchased a brush mower, may be some extra money each year to move to grading. Sandy suggested Charlie make a priority map to help with grant writing

President's Report – Stephen Rees

Contract from WCCOG is in hand, can amend/expand later if necessary. Contract is for \$1,692 annually, payable monthly, attendance of monthly meetings plus mileage and travel, updating of website with minutes. Moved Polly, seconded Ian, voted and passed unanimously. **See attached Contract.**

Treasurer's Report – Ian Staub

Ian read 2015 report plus gave proposed budget for 2016. (See attached Budget)
Budget Comments: Should check into Bangor Savings Bank grant apps for 50K. Rather than spending money on picnic tables, would spend it on shelters. Make this a more flexible line item. Checks received today: Ironbound restaurant, Friend and Friend, and

merchandise sales

Motion to approve proposed budget Sandy, Second by Polly. Unanimous vote.

Manager's Report – Charlie Corliss

3 washouts after last heavy rain, one took 18 yards of material to fix. Will install water bars in select areas. Legally, at Beal Avenue, ATV's could use High Street to access the Irving station. Acadia ATV club is proposing an off-trail route to eliminate High Street crossing, working with landowners. Haven't done anything yet with town line signs. Looking to business in Cutler to do some of this work (more professional looking)

Beavers are getting active, trapping season is 2 weeks away.

At Friend and Friend event, sold many t-shirts and counted remaining stock, getting quite low. People kept asking for hoodies, none left. Also need to buy tote storage boxes.

Membership Update – Carol Cuddy

256 members, 2 new members, 32 business members, 7 renewals, \$1650 regular memberships, \$1850 business memberships need to personally meet with folks along the trail.

THANK YOU TO JIM FISCHER, Andy Gallant

Charlie R. suggested the Coalition do more to help make the Friend and Friend event a bigger success next year, such as taking out a ½ page ad or doing a 50/50 raffle.

Next meeting – November 16th at 12 in Machias.

Motion to Adjourn at 2:30