

SUNRISE TRAIL COALITION, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
19 Main Street, Milbridge, ME  
May 10, 2016 @ Noon

**1. Introduction of Directors, Quorum Determination; Welcome** (no members of the public in attendance) Board Members present were Pres. Rees, Vice-Pres. Ceckler, Treasurer Staub, Ray Archer, Charlie Harrington, Sandy Johnson, Carol Cuddy, Andy Gallant, Sharon Mack, Charlie Robinson, and Trail Mgr. Charlie Corliss. Taking minutes was Crystal Hitchings.

**2. Approval Of Minutes**

- March 15 minutes accepted with Carol's edit corrections.
- April 12 minutes accepted with group amendments.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Dues were received from one new member. Ian finally got account information corrected with Frost septic, which will show up next payment. Report accepted as presented.

Sunrise Trail Coalition Treasurers Report (5/10/12)

BHBT Bank Balance as of 4/29/16)	\$20,219.16
Dues	40.00
Total:	20,259.16

Bills to be Paid:	
Frost Septic:	60.00
Ray Plumbing (July, 2015)	105.00
WCCOG (C. Hitchings)	33.45
Total:	198.45

Balances:	
Grant fund carry over:	5,643.27
BSB grant:	1,000.00
General fund:	13,615.89

**4. Updates**

Steve removed several items from the "old business" agenda -- 6A, 6C, 6E, 6I were removed, no updates at this time.

Ellsworth Coordination: Charlie C. is still trying to coordinate a day in May to meet with Ellsworth staff. College of the Atlantic students addressing mobility issues from extension trailhead to services; how to connect paved trail to extension; regional issues – coming into Ellsworth from the region, how do you become

informed about parking, and activities/services in Ellsworth. They will be talking with the Maine Community Foundation to better understand how that site intersects/interacts with the Downeast Sunrise Trail/railroad property. Bill will also inquire with them to understand how they might be willing to cooperate with the DSTC. There is a desire to connect the Sunrise Trail with the Ellsworth High School trail. On May 31 College of the Atlantic students will give a report at Ellsworth City Hall at 6PM.

Machias Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber has moved into the building! Wednesday is the first day of being officially open. Inmates from WCCF did an amazing job and paid incredible attention to detail. Platform and flooring still to be completed. Twenty-seven ATV's went by while moving in, on a windy cold day! It should be a popular location for trail users, they can charge cellphone, use bathroom, get coffee. COC has created a 'welcome" banner for outside. Are limited for wall space, but have 3 slots for Sunrise Trail brochure. Want to do some COC signage for awareness of the trail. People aren't clear about where to park, so they are parking on the trail; need parking warning/delineation or "no parking" signs.

Spoke about annual chamber events at last meeting, relayed desire for increased interest and memberships in Machias. Could Sharon give thoughts and recommendations at next meeting about how to broaden base and support in Machias? There will be a grand opening in June for the Chamber, at which the trail can be showcased. DSTC would like to sponsor a movie night this summer. Between 200-400 people come to movies. Popcorn and water will be sold, DSTC could also sell or give away something as a sponsor. There will be an opportunity to speak about the Trail prior to the movie. Could also keep application forms or newsletters at the Chamber office.

## **5. Trail Manager's Report**

A lady wants to do donkey tours on the trail! Charlie provided information to her about camping, etc.

During trail inspections, found significant washout in East Machias from a recent high tide. The trail lost about 100 yards of surface, and will take about 6 yards of material to repair it. Charlie has secured the sight temporarily. Washout on 200 in Franklin has been repaired (new culvert, ditch, rip-rap, realignment).

Haven't connected with blueberry folks in Franklin to determine parking area. Steve asked about the evidence of entitlement to DSTC; Charlie suggests an informal agreement or a deed (although not likely). DSTC would need to install signage to designate parking area.

The Downeast Salmon Federation's Smolt Bolt event is this weekend, and they have been issued a permit to use the trail.

Porta-potty needs to be ordered for Cherryfield for Memorial Day weekend through November.

The brochure holders Jim made are installed, and brochures in Ellsworth are hard to keep stocked. Charlie has ordered 10 more; want to have 2 at each kiosk, one with brochure and one with newsletter.

(It's probably time to write a new newsletter. Cost for previous production was about \$290 for 250 copies. Could be printed in black and white for the distribution kiosks only to reduce the price (color for membership mailing). Color edition could be laminated and put inside kiosk. Carol and Charlie will coordinate, and print maybe 100 per kiosk with minimal color, hoping to attract a few new membership applications. Carol will explore pricing for color copies. Andy offered to print them at his office, and DEST will reimburse him (at approximately the price Staples would charge).

Repairs to trail continue; Sunrise Opportunities will help with painting and other minor work. Grading will begin after the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

## **6. Ellsworth Extension project**

It turns out that the project was not sent to MaineDOT for review. Upon their review, the design had to be somewhat altered. Lane Construction was conducting the layout, placed reference points on the trail, but had to stop because they didn't have the required flagging crew (see April 12 minutes). Everything seems to be worked out with the MaineDOT and railroad folks, there will be another meeting tomorrow, the 11<sup>th</sup>. The flagging required for Lane Construction will be billed to and paid for by the Department of Conservation. This delay will push completion out to later in October.

The trail won't go to Beal Avenue, will stop about 50-60 feet short, just past the entrance to the Comfort Inn, at the sidewalk. ATV's might travel along the sidewalk 50 feet or so, there are no restrictions against this, and they could also use the road.

There is not enough room for the trail with the required setbacks. A few trees will have to come out, losing any buffer between the inn and the trail. Will likely pave that section to keep the dust down, and will put up a stockade or similar fence.

Despite site constraints, there will be room for a trailhead kiosk structure. Picnic table, benches, landscaping may not be possible, but it is a very noisy spot and may not be desirable for that.

The DOC wants to develop a "trail behind the trail" to access other services, and hope to direct people off of the trail prior to reaching the end at the Comfort Inn. Plymouth, the designer, should have final set of plans soon after the meeting with MaineDOT on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Trail Infrastructure

Steve wondered if, considering in-town site constraints, the DSTC should focus on improving Washington Junction experience. The Board agreed that the function and aesthetics of Washington Junction could be improved. Charlie said he has moved one picnic table from the site because he's never seen it being used. The parking lot gets packed, but people don't hang out at the trailhead amenities. The group discussed whether there should be a permanent privy – cost differences may not be significant over the long term. Hayes Martin's Downeast ATV rental business, by Washington Junction, said he would take care of cleaning a privy at Washington Junction. Carol suggested taking a look at Duck Brook at ANP which has a nice looking wooden enclosure around their Porta-potty.

Charlie reports that the information at the Ayers Junction kiosk is almost completely faded; the one in Machias is in OK shape. Charlie refreshed the maps at Washington Junction recently. Creating trail-segment maps on more permanent material will help resolve this issue. Steve supports utilizing a series of mounted pedestal type signs for easier viewing. Steve spoke with East Coast Greenway about what materials they might like to see displayed, and asked for digital files for making them more permanent – there hasn't been a response yet.

Ian asked about signs for parking at Franklin Vets Club. Charlie will be talking further with Patrick Adams, MaineDOT, about parking signage. Looking to accommodate 8-10 vehicles in the Franklin area. Can park 4-5 vehicles along the trail off Unionville Road, mostly local traffic. Charlie only very occasionally sees trail-users at the Narraguagus High School parking lot. Having a more permanent kiosk in Cherryfield is important; Charlie will speak with RR folks about putting one here. The train depot project will occur later in the future. (Charlie will give an update about his conversation with Cherryfield foods at the next meeting.) There will be a parking lot created in Whitneyville near the trail, not likely in 2016. Columbia parking area gets heavy use, could use a kiosk. Wherever there is congregate parking, we need to install better information. Other logical parking areas include: McGeorges Crossing (crossing over Route 191); Dennysville (parking at the snowmobile club and facilities available 24-7).

Plywood sign boards – Each sheet is just over \$40 apiece. Can probably find local help to cut pieces for signs. These will be completed within the next couple of weeks. Some information for the boards could be laminated, but the group should pursue purchasing the more permanent signs for the segment maps. Bill proposed authorizing \$500 for laminating signs for each of the 5 kiosks, seconded by Ray, approved by all. Charlie will attach them such that they can't be removed, although that isn't much of a concern.

## **8. Events**

ATV Maine will host a banquet on August 20th, which will occur in Dennysville, right on the rail bed. The Dennysville club is expecting 50 - 60 attendees. The Machias Wild Blueberry Festival also occurs that day. The DSTC should be visible, recognized, and participating. They could donate a hat, t-shirt, or sweatshirt for the banquet raffle. Ray will follow up with the DSTC group on how they can support the Dennysville club in this event.

Steve invited Crow Athletics to the June meeting for an update so the Board can coordinate with them on the all-night relay race. Steve summarized the event. Sharon will insure the Machias Chamber is open for racers to use when they pass through, and will make water available.

Andy suggested that, as a fundraiser for the ATV ride and barbecue in September, Friend & Friend offered to sell the DSTC an ATV to be raffled off at the event. Andy believes he could sell 1,000 tickets, and it only requires 400 to recoup the cost of a \$5,000 - \$6,000 ATV. Raffle tickets would be sold at local businesses, and Friend & Friend would help distribute them to the businesses. Ray suggested making a commitment to Friend & Friend now, and partway through the raffle the funds could be used to actually purchase the ATV. Much thought should be put into this, but by the June 14 meeting is time enough. Charlie Robinson will talk to businesses in his area to determine their willingness to sell raffle tickets. Money would be collected monthly until enough is saved up to cover the cost of the ATV. Any additional income would go directly to the Coalition. Tickets could be sold at trailheads on a nice day, and they would also be sold at the barbecue itself. A greater effort at advertising needs to be made. A 50/50 raffle is a huge draw for the public.

## **9. Merchandise**

Charlie inventoried the trail logo merchandise. Need hats, large adult shirts, sweatshirts. Charlie reviewed pricing from his vendor. Andy suggested getting other cost estimates, as those submitted are high; the group agreed. Steve suggested waiting to purchase sweatshirts until the fall, and only purchasing some long-sleeve t-shirts to see how they go. Sharon suggested Liberty Graphics. Charlie will obtain some competitive bids, and the Board will decide how many hats and t-shirts to order in June.

**Next Meeting is June 14, 12 PM, at Pat's Pizza in Ellsworth.**

**Adjourned at 2:05 PM.**