

SUNRISE TRAIL COALITION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
February 18, 2016 @NOON
19 Main St., WCCG Office
Milbridge, ME
Phone Conference Call-In# 207-546-3600

AGENDA:

1. Introduction of Directors and Quorum determination; Welcome Members and other attendees; distribution of Meeting sign-in sheet.

Present: Sandy Johnson, Polly Ceckler, Bill Ceckler, Gerry Nasberg, Crystal Hitchings, Charlie Harrington, Charlie Corliss, Ray Archer, Carol Cuddy, Steve Rees, Scott Ramsay, Ian Staub (via telephone)

2. Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2016 Board of Directors' Regular Meeting.

- Minutes unanimously accepted as written.

3. Treasurer's Report- Treasurer, Ian Staub

Report accepted by Board as tendered:

STC Treasurers Report as of 2/16/16 (revised)

Bank Balance:	\$21,377.69
Dues:	25.00
Total:	\$21,402.69
	-739.19 (Bills Paid)
Total:	\$20,663.50

Bills Paid:

Crystal Hitchings:	\$417.17
Mileage & Svcs 1/22:	44.60
Mileage & Svcs 2/10:	212.42
Frost Septic 2/4:	65.00
Total:	\$739.19

Account Balances:

Grant fund C/O:	\$5,643.27
BSB Grant:	1,000.00
General Fund:	14,020.23

4. Trail Mgr's Report- Charlie Corliss

A fatality occurred on Monday the 15th between Jonesboro and Whitneyville when a snowmobile traveling around 100mph struck a logging truck crossing the trail. The accident is currently under investigation by the Warden service.

Trail conditions are currently poor. Washington Junction to Jonesboro Station have been poor for awhile due to lack of snow. There are several possible washouts, and several spots with deep ruts. A recent Franklin repair may have washed out again on Route 200 where there is a lot of velocity of water shooting across the trail. More ditching may be required, and/or put in another culvert. Charlie C. put 10 bags of cement in one particular hole in the trail, will replace the culvert creating that washout.

The DOC will undertake mowing this year rather than contracting it out. The DOC just bought a mower for the tractor. Will mow the whole length of the trail, one time. Charlie C. will do this along with an internal equipment operator. They will place a "mowing ahead" sign on trail and mow during the week.

The general maintenance contract is going out to bid soon. This contract was 6-8K over budget last year, will put the contract out to bid once last year is paid off.

The grading contract could be renewed with Hanscom, Charlie will check soon to learn if they want to renew. This year the trail will be graded for 44 miles from Washington junction to Columbia falls. Last year did Ayers Junction to Cherryfield. There will be a small overlap this year. Charlie C. would love to grade every year. Have to re-grade crown and add some materials to reduce washouts. Could assess specific areas that are trouble, to grade every year, but makes it hard to keep contract clear. The biggest problems occur in areas with long grades; these can't go two years without being graded. Last year the trail had 3 washouts in the same spot.

Purchased new batteries for all trail cameras. One camera isn't working due to an SD card issue; specify specific type of battery needed, need to find receipt for cameras, because they need to be reset but have to prove ownership before company will reset. Ian has the receipts, and he will bring them to the April meeting.

5. Committee Reports:

Trail Surface Issues & Facilities: Ian Staub, Chair

The group will invite Bob and his wife (last name? Wife's name?) to further discuss raising money to resurface trails and to determine if they should be ambassadors for the group.

Ellsworth Extension Status: Charlie Corliss, Trail Mgr.

Scott Ramsey provided a brief update. DEP signed off on the permit yesterday, should be ready to go out to bid in the next week. DEP hadn't wanted construction between June 15 and August 15 due to habitat around Card Brook. Scott negotiated an earlier start date outside the wetlands; now can start near wetland on August 1. Scott wants the extension built by Labor Day. Engineering and permits are done. Can start as soon as a successful bidder is mobilized. There is a 2.6 miles long section to finish.

Michelle Gagnon, Ellsworth City Planner, wanted to follow up with some issues re bikes in the city, Steve will follow up with her.

Trail Extension to Calais Status: Charlie Corliss & John Marchese (Calais motor inn)

John is working in the Calais area to build local support and discuss how to move bike, snowmobile, and ATV traffic through the city. Dennysville Snowmobile Club had permissions to groom a trail from Ayers Junction to Moosehorn this year, but there was no snow. Should get some state and local legislative reps to the DST meetings. It might be good to have a meeting in Calais, to discuss this issue

in spring, and invite David Burns.

The Port of Eastport is working on rejuvenating the Eastport rail leg. May be able to work with DOT to allow a one-time visit by 4-wheeler to photograph this entire section. Moosehorn folks are supportive, will help them to consolidate existing trails. Could potentially extend trail past Moosehorn to Route 9, then something that parallels the road, cross over causeway, and create a park and ride near the new international crossing. Calais would be responsible for working with bike and ATV access within town. Route 1 is a ROW through the Moosehorn. Could use Rt. 1 to cross the causeway and then hook back to trail.

There is lots of interest from ECG to support this end of trail and help lobby for local interest. East Coast Greenway portion of DST starts at Icehouse Road, where there is a pretty view and hard packed trail. ECG begins at international bridge crossing, and then follows Route 9 to the Moosehorn. ECG would benefit from upgrades in this area.

The ATV map is complete, now working on snowmobile map – lack of snow delayed data gathering, and they had to draw many trails in by hand. The map should be printed very soon. Because the season is nearly over, the group will print a minimal amount now and more in fall.

Charlie C. is updating the FB page with trail conditions and answering questions. Charlie has limited access to the trail conditions page, but it is buried in site. Will ask Jen at HCPC to place a direct link on the home page.

Winter February 13, 2016 Cross-Country Ski event: Bill Ceckler, Chair

Everything was ready to go on day before the race, but the evening news reported 8-10 inches of snow and heavy wind, so they cancelled the event. Many people were contacted individually, and a sign was put up. Molly Henry wanted to reschedule, and many conversations have occurred about rescheduling, March 5 was the only possible date, but there is a very mild weather forecast for the rest of this year. Don't want to have two cancellations in one year, too discouraging. People may not come just for a hike, and there is too much involvement required from East Coast Greenway and Frenchman Bay Conservancy to coordinate something quickly. We have great resources pulled together for next year. All voted in favor to NOT reschedule the event this year. Polly would like to do something for Eileen from FBC and her husband for their significant efforts.

6. Old Business

Update Train Depot Restoration Cherryfield: Steve Rees

The DESTC Board wants to insure there is information at key locations about history of the rail. Met with Kathy Upton last month to hear their plans for renovating structure and turning it into a museum. Will coordinate with Destination Cherryfield to assist with this project. The kiosk at the trail junction in Cherryfield will advise people about services at the depot.

Update Train Depot Restoration Machias: Sharon Mack

COC took over depot, completed renovations, will move in mid-march. adjacent boxcar, funding secured to turn into historical museum. expended some funds, but local energy has deteriorated. not sure what plans are for boxcar, or if original grant purpose is still viable.

Status Completion Trail Users Survey –

Jim Fischer is still working on compiling camera survey results from last year. This year the group will

at least collect the data and then either get a volunteer to analyze the data, or maybe hire someone if funds are available. Jim is waiting to secure some information from here so he can prepare and complete survey, need to formally transmit data to Davis family foundation to finalize grant requirements.

7. New Business

Future Event: Dog Sled Race - an individual had this idea and would like to talk with DST about this event. He's from the Blue Hill area. May be an activity for next year. He uses the trail to train the dogs.

East Coast Greenway Alliance 25th Anniversary Way Tour: July 31-August 2, 2016: Steve Rees

- July 31-Calais (calais motor inn hosting dinner and breakfast)
- August 1-Machias (Helen's won't be open) meal will be at Skywalkers, staying at Machias motor inn.
- August 2-Ellsworth breakfast at Helens, staying at Comfort Inn

This event is open to public involvement. 30-40 committed riders going from Maine to Florida. DSTC's involvement – Steve may be Calais ambassador, would be good to have some DSTC ambassadors in Machias. Charlie H. is willing to provide mountain bikes for anyone wanting to ride Machias to Ayer's Junction section of trail. Would need coalition riders to accompany them. Steve R. will contact ECG president about this.

Bike Maine 2016 Downeast Tour: September 10-17, 2016: Crystal Hitchings

- Machias-September 12
- Milbridge-September 16

Ways for the DESTC to interact with riders include a presentation, slideshow, or discussion of the trail assets and the group's involvement with state government and citizen groups. This is a good time for outreach/PR. Charlie H. may offer mountain bike rides.

Public Relations: After bid for Ellsworth extension is awarded, DESTC should put out an article about what is happening in the trail. Charlie C could provide PR, then DESTC could follow that up with another.

3rd annual Sunrise Trail Relay Race will be held on the last weekend in July.

Dirt road bicycle race: Charlie C. discussed his thoughts for this all ages event. Washington Junction would probably be best location, or Narraguagus, where there is parking and fewer street crossings. The group will discuss this in March or April. EdGE would coordinate this event, and it would be a trail fundraiser.

It is voting time for Bangor Savings grants.

NEXT meeting – 15th March, in Milbridge, 12 noon
Adjournment @ 2pm