

SUNRISE TRAIL COALITION, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Pat's Pizza, Ellsworth, ME.  
April 19, 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, Polly Ceckler, Ray Archer, Gerry Nasberg, Charlie Harrington, Sandy Johnson, Carol Cuddy, Andy Gallant, Leslie Harlow, and Trail Mgr. Charlie Corliss; Treasurer Staub; and Jen Boothroyd. Taking minutes was Crystal Hitchings.

**2. Approval Of Minutes of March 15, 2016 Regular Board Meeting:** Carol noted some typos; minutes were not formally accepted.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Staub reviewed the attached current Report and answered questions from Board Members. Ian had called to resolve an outstanding porta-potty ~~outstanding~~ invoice (as noted in the March minutes) and is still trying to reach them. Report as presented accepted.

**Sunrise Trail Coalition Treasurers Report as of April 19, 2016**

Opening balance (as per 3/31/16 BHBT Statement):	\$20,297.51
Dues:	\$100.00
Total:	\$20,397.51

Bills to be paid:

Frost Septic:	\$65.00
USPS:	\$60.00
Total:	\$125.00

Account balances:

Grand fund c/o:	\$5,643.27
BSB Grant:	\$1,000.00
General Fund:	\$13,754.24

**4. Trail Manager's Report:** Charlie Corliss reported that the trail is not open to ATV's at this time. Inspections are being done to trail; there are trees down across the trail, washouts on sides, some culverts to replace, temporary fixes to be made permanent, and a beaver damn washout in Steuben.

The grading contract was awarded to RF Jordans, at \$400/mile. The maintenance was awarded to Dean Young Logging (Charlie hasn't seen final numbers yet, as the contract won't be in effect until May 1); mowing will be done in-house this year.

The contract for the trail extension to Ellsworth to was awarded to Lane Construction, the lowest bidder, for \$854,000. RF Jordan and Sargent Construction were the next highest bidders. Two bids came in at 1 million or above. The Maine DOT had predicted 2-3 million. 1.3 million dollars had been allocated for the project; the DSTC should contract local legislators to see about utilizing the leftover money for resurfacing.

Work will start May 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are doing layout work now. Because the railroad is active, federal rules require a flagger to be present, but it isn't in the contract. A meeting between Maine DOT and DOC tomorrow will help to work this out, may have to amend the contract with Lane Construction to add the cost of a flagger.

No further word from Patrick Adams re trail signs, Charlie will contact him again.

A washout near Route 200 has been a problem site for years. Charlie met with Maine DOT on site, and they are working to resolve the issue with the amount of water coming onto the trail, although it may be next year before they can address the issue.

An East Machias beaver issue, creating water across trail, will be removed. New bike signs are in place on the paved roads.

Milbridge/Cherryfield Campground – Charlie wants to build a shelter, DOC has money for materials but no time. Would DSTC consider designating funds to hire someone to build the shelter? Charlie Harrington will look into being able to supply volunteer labor, either through the Maine Seacoast Mission or EdGE (Jonesport). It could be good Eagle Scout project. The DOC has an engineered design plan. Charlie asked the DSTC if they would additionally consider supplying 5 sheets of plywood for parking area kiosks. MOTION to supply the funds by Bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ian, all voted in favor.

Trail camera issues – one appears to be broken, the lens doesn't move properly. Ian will check receipts for warranties, etc. and to help "unlock" code.

Ian is on Brownfields steering committee of the Hancock County Planning Commission. The Downeast Scenic Railroad and Webber Holding applied for cleanup funds, but were denied. The DEP staff person who is a member of the Brownfields Committee wanted to know if soil samples were taken during the trail construction for creosote leaching. Ian knows of one location at Schoodic bog – Charlie C doesn't believe any other soil testing was done. Environmental impact study was done for current trail during initial permit review should be on record with the DEP. Ian wonders why the DSTC keeps being enjoined in this Webber/Downeast Scenic Railroad clean-up issue. DSTC is an abutter, but not an applicant, and shouldn't be on the application. Ian will raise this issue at the next Brownfields committee meeting.

Charlie C. and Ian will meet with the blueberry people in Franklin. Charlie C. will schedule the meeting.

Charlie C. will get a long sleeve t-shirt order together for May, and sweatshirts and hats need to be restocked.

**5. Trail/Facilities Issues Committee:** Ian wants to jump on the process Charlie C. mentioned of working with legislators to procure the additional funds appropriated for the trail. Ian also wonders if state bond money for trail work has been released. Ian will reach out to Kim Rosen of Bucksport, a state senator who serves on the Transportation Committee.

The DSTC had talked about improving signage and the branding message. Leslie contacted Todd from Sierra Signs. He is a trail user, and spoke with someone from the committee a few years ago. Composite material can be digitally printed on, it is affordable and looks great, letters won't peel or fade. Cost would be between \$150-200 per sign, and he'll work with DSTC on quantity of signs and printing some now, some later. Andy showed the group a sample of sign material from Banner City in Bucksport, who could create a 4x4 sign for \$200. The DOC has digital files with trail maps, and could give map information to the vendor. If maps were printed on this material, they could be placed outside of the kiosk.

Steve would like to see the kiosks reorganized to contain more information for more users. The DSTC should prioritize materials to be inside VS outside kiosk. What's missing from kiosks? What are initial and last impressions for trail users based on the kiosks? Ian says the one at Ayers Junction is poor, and if group goes for extension to Calais, maintenance of the kiosk needs to be improved. This will be a major agenda item in May. A priority for kiosks is to bring railroad history to the trailheads.

Steve will assign to John Marchese of Calais and Sharon Mack in Machias to coordinate contacts for historical society, etc., for materials to reproduce for a kiosk panel or free-standing sign. Kathy Upton is the Historical Society person in Cherryfield, and Ellsworth also has a strong historical society. Leslie, who is part of the Museum in the Streets project, will make the Ellsworth contacts. The Ellsworth American, MDOT, and Maine Historic Archives should also have some railroad history available. Ray will look for some historic accounts he'd read about fishing and travelling via railroad.

Leslie suggested engaging a student to gather together the information so it is done with one voice. She also emphasized the need to identify sign locations in order to know the story to be told at each location – is it history, is it recreation?

The DSTC would like to engage the Ellsworth city manager, and city planner in a discussion about internal planning for trail extension – how is Ellsworth planning to handle parking, improvements, signage, etc.

Charlie C. said that maintenance was done to the railroad segment from Ayers to Calais in past year. During a field trip, ~~he-it was~~ observed that it won't work to make a trail beside the rail in many locations due to wetlands issues. Charlie is waiting for permission from the railroad to go out ~~again~~ on an ATV to look again. Making recommendation for removing rails may be best path forward. When trail was built, an agreement was made that the trail would go beside the rail if rail ever came back.

**Chamber of Commerce Meetings: Machias Bay COC meeting, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Ellsworth on the 19<sup>th</sup>.** Ellsworth COC business awards nomination forms and invitations to the Machias and Ellsworth annual meetings were sent to Ian. Steve would like to DSTC to meet with the new Ellsworth chamber director, the annual dinner would be a good opportunity to be a speaker - Steve will check with the new director about getting onto the agenda and about getting a story in their newsletter about the trail extension. Steve will also reach out to Sharon to see how her membership advocacy work is going in Machias. Leslie suggesting having an editorial board meeting with the Ellsworth American. Steve suggested this would be more meaningful once there is more visibility of the project. Ian stressed the need to get LL Bean more involved. Carol suggested that the kiosks and signage issues be worked out prior to publishing many new articles.

**East Coast Greenway:** Steve will find out what current information/mapping they would like to see the DSTC signs coordinate with.

**Relay Race** – crowd athletics will return to update group on this event.  
Cherryfield Depot – no updates requiring action

**Sunrise County Economic Council** – Charlie H. suggests they be involved in DSTC conversations.  
Charles Rudelitch (207-255-0983 x 16) or Jennifer Peters (207-255-0983 x 12 ) would be the staff to invite.

**Next meeting:** The May DSTC meeting will be **May 10 from 12-2 PM at 19 Main Street in Milbridge.** This meeting will be focused on the trail and its facilities. Charlie C. will take photos of Machias, Ayer's Junction and Washington Junction kiosks for the May meeting and get kiosk dimensions (kiosk panels sizes are uniform along the trail).

Meeting Adjourned, 1:50 PM