

SUNRISE TRAIL COALITION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
WCCG Milbridge Office
19 Main Street, Milbridge, ME
March 15, 2016 @ Noon

AGENDA:

1. Introduction of Directors, Quorum Determination; Welcome Members and Public; Distribution Sign-In Sheet

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; Conference phone participation by Treasurer Staub.

Public attendees were Henry Owen and Lilly Anderson.

2. Approval Of Minutes of February 18, 2016 Regular Board Meeting: By acclamation.

3. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Staub reviewed the attached current Report and answered questions from Board Members. He pointed out an error to bill for porta-potty at Cherryfield. He said he would resolve with vendor. Report as presented accepted.

4. Trail Manager's Report.

Trail Manager Corliss introduced attendees, Henry Owen and Lilly Anderson, who came to discuss the Board's interest in hosting a Winter dog sledding event on the Sunrise Trail. Henry reviewed Ft. Kent race event over various mile distances with 6 dogs minimum for a sled. Issues discussed were whether there were sufficient number of "mushers" who would come to participate; whether one day event like 30 miles or multi-day event for whole Trail mileage; what area or nearby Clubs or individuals would assist in event preparation and conduct of event and/or participate; whether sprint mushing like 5-10 miles would be more interesting to event attendees; what entry fee might be; possible conflicts with interlinking ATV and Snowmobile trails; possible conflicts with other motorized users or cross-country skiers or walkers on the Trail. There was discussion of present Cross Country Ski event and possible expansion to be a Winter Fun Run including mushers with dog sleds. Henry explained "skijoring" which harnesses the sled dogs to the skier. There was discussion about difficulty for beginners, desirable distance to ski being pulled by dogs and maybe one day for Cross Country skiing and other day for mushers with dog sleds. Henry discussed possible 60-mile sprint as a timed event requiring checkpoints along the Trail and volunteers at checkpoints. If multi-day event, Henry discussed at each end of day's race the dogs would stay in trucks of mushers and accommodations for shelter and food would be necessary for the mushers. Board members expressed enthusiasm and requested Henry and Lilly return to April Board meeting for further discussion about scheduling an event.

Trail Manager Corliss presented his report. Respecting Ellsworth extension, there was a March 11 meeting at which 12 contractors sought information to bid for the project. He advised bids would be opened the Tuesday next week. DEP permit has been issued with no work restriction between 4/15-8/1 in wading waterfowl habitats. As a result, there will be delays in bridge construction. Construction completion scheduled for October 1, 2016.

Respecting Trail maintenance, he advised the contract was out for bid and bids would be opened April 11.

Respecting Trail parking signage, he reported meeting with DOT BikePed Coordinator Patrick Adams March 4; gave him list of locations; funding would be through DOT program.

Respecting grading of the Trail, a bid opening is scheduled April 8; grading to be completed by August 1, 2016; try to avoid dry dust conditions on Trail if not watering Trail.

Respecting seasonal Trail closure, Website displays closure notice to May 15; opening of Trail could be earlier upon favorable dry conditions.

He reported a major washout in Franklin off Road#200 from road runoff; he reported resulting continual maintenance necessary; intends to address by installing tailings and additional culvert. Use construction fabric underneath new Trail material overlaid; rip rap embankment to stabilize. He summarized other areas with minor washouts being repaired.

He reported availability of 2016 Downeast Trail Snowmobile Maps and distributed some to the Coalition. There probably will be more printed in Fall.

He reported recent sale of logo shirts to interested consumer and advised need to order more. He will inventory current supply to determine what and how many shirts, sweatshirts or caps to order.

He reported the Website does not display the Coalition Newsletter for 2015 and 2015; he will speak to Jen Boothroyd at HCPC office to add to Website. He noted that Trail Advisories are now prominently on first page of Website.

He discussed Mile 32 Campground status and revisited topic of a permanent shower and privy expense to construct and to maintain. There were several Board members' questions as to possible sources of funding, including MDOT.

He reported wanting to schedule a meeting in Franklin with the Property owner of the former Blueberry plant to arrange use of area for Trail parking. Treasurer Staub requested awaiting his early April return to Franklin to attend meeting with Trail Manager Corliss.

He reported new information about possible sources for crushed concrete in East Machias and suggested pricing at \$15/ton. If available, he inquired about Coalition interest in pursuing funding sources. Treasurer Staub chairs Trail Surface Committee and upon his return this item will be discussed at April Board meeting.

Trail Manager Corliss reported that more map holders are needed. The Board approved his purchase of a dozen.

Pres. Rees reminded the Board that planning for the annual All Night Race Relay should begin and he will contact Crow Athletics to invite their attendance at either April or May Board meeting to discuss.

5. Old Business

Pres. Rees suggested at future meeting items A. and B. be discussed when presenters for each could attend.

Pres. Rees noted the Trail Users Survey remained incomplete and discussed necessity for former Secretary and HCPC Planner to complete and deliver report for Coalition filing with Grant donor.

Pres. Rees discussed Trail Surfaces and Improvements Committee needs to revisit needs for additional facilities like benches, shelters, Trailhead Kiosks, and the priority of locations and means to fund materials purchases and construction costs. As to present signs and maps, many in Trailhead Kiosks are sun faded or weathered and need replacement. There was discussion about digital sign/maps design and relative cost; Board member Harlow discussed having used a vendor from whom she would seek more information for the Board.

Pres. Rees commented that with the scheduling to construct the Ellsworth extension, this Summer was an opportune time to seek new individual and business memberships and alliances/partnerships. This topic will be discussed further at April board meeting. A new Committee for issues associated with the Ellsworth extension was formed comprised of Leslie Harlow, Gerry Nasberg, Andy Gallant, Ian Staub and Steve Rees.

7. New Business.

No new topics were discussed.

8. Future Board Meeting.

Next Board meeting will be at Pat's Pizza, Ellsworth, Noon on April 12, 2016.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

[In absence of Crystal Hitchings of WCCG as Recording Secretary, Pres. Rees took meeting minutes notes and prepared these Minutes.]