



**Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 4-6 p.m.**  
**RC&D Cherryfield**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Bill Ceckler, Polly Ceckler, Charles Corliss, Sally Jacobs, Peter Knowles, Misha Mytar, Gail Peters, Steve Sloan, Tim Tunney, Barbara Maurer

**Meeting called to order at 4:05 by Bill.**

- 1. Welcome and sign-in sheet passed around and introductions made.**
- 2. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes** – This was done at the last meeting. There are no minutes from 11/16, so this will be tabled until the next meeting.
- 3. Approval of Treasurer's Report** - Dave Wood gave Sally the report this morning and it was passed out at the meeting. Bank Balance is \$14,094.51. Comments:
  - Charlie added that that he can't recall what the deposit was for on 11/17, but it was made the day after the meeting – possibly from t-shirt/hat sales during the Nov. ride.
  - Donation from Friend and Friend is proceeds from the Cherryfield gathering. Also Thanks to Camden National Bank.
  - Bill negotiated with Scott who paid for ½ the costs of the opening celebration tent.
  - Is the \$248.50 for the port-a-potty at Ayers Junction? **Yes** Charlie hasn't seen the bill for this. We still have the portable toilet at Washington Junction.
  - The kiosk is for materials (timbers are required for kiosk posts). The two kiosks are at the prison and are being worked on.
  - Trail signs – there are two more.
  - Portion of tent rental agreed to with DOC, \$500.
  - Our grant money is to be used for trail-head improvement. Sally thinks it would be good to have port-a-potties at trail heads, but would prefer to put the funds toward more substantial ones.
  - Tim asked about the sale of T-Shirts and hats (expense versus income) and if we are paying attention to inventory cost and selling them in a way that is meaningfully profitable for the coalition. Charlie said we do make a profit, but it goes down when we give some away. The \$337 listed in the report is not the only income from these – we've been selling them all along and have made some profit. Sally said that Friend & Friend would sell some. We should keep track of how many we bought and how many were sold, as we may need to account for these at some point. Gail asked if the sellers ever bought these outright to sell themselves – not yet—usually we give to the organization and they pay us when they've sold the items. We need to be sure to write down who got them and be careful about this for our own internal bookkeeping and to keep the non-profit in good standing. Sally will get together with Dave and Jim to discuss what is needed (Tim isn't sure either). Tim will join in to help with this too.
  - It's great to see the balance and income too.

- Kyle was going to join us today – Friend and Friend is interested in supporting the STC
- Would be nice to have a finance committee, especially for port-a-potties. Tim will be the chair.
- Sally moved to accept the financial report as written. Polly seconded. Motion carried.

#### 4. Manager's Report – Charlie reported the following:

- **Trail conditions** as of today are ride-able, but there are bare spots too. The western end hasn't been groomed recently as there is nothing to work with. Everything has been done once, but further east is better because there has been more snow. Gary Dowling rode from Machias to Cherryfield on Sunday and another person rode from Hancock to Cherryfield. The conditions are not great, but hopefully they will improve tomorrow. Charlie has commitments from 5 clubs for grooming (i.e. the Guagus Club has a groomer and has practiced using it so is ready to go). Bill asked if the Ellsworth Club is plowing the Washington Junction parking lot – someone is, but Charlie isn't sure if it is Ellsworth or Frenchman Bay (Lamoine). At other end of the trail, Dennysville has hired someone to plow.
- **Storm Damage** – There was damage in Nov. and Dec. In Nov. there was \$5000 damage between Machias and East Machias (at the dike, tidal damage, debris, etc.). Some of the top surface came off and some alongside including base material. The damage didn't prevent passage, but there were deep ruts and a lot of damage parallel to the trail. There were washouts parallel to the trail in Jonesboro and East Machias. In December there were several washouts in Pembroke and East Machias, but these were fixed for under a couple of thousand dollars, though a few more touch ups are needed. It was serious storm damage at a bad time of year for repairs, so we are fortunate we got someone who was able to do it. Other trails off of ours (connectors) had big damage too. This was a 100-year storm, but we didn't qualify for federal assistance. Landowners fixed some themselves.
- **Bangor Hydro Reliability Project** started yesterday. Steve Sloan--They moved in the equipment & expanded entrances. Today more equipment is being brought in and they are cutting trees. They are working between Card Crossing Road and Tunk Lake Road, 7 am to 7 pm, 6 days a week to get in and get it done. They estimate it will take two weeks for this portion. The next portion will be Tunk Lake Road to Unionville and will take 3 weeks. Bill Cherry is the coordinator for Bangor Hydro and is the contact. Everyone has been through safety training. The plan is that when they are moving logging trucks there will be escorts and flaggers at all entrances/exits. They can't plow the snow down to the surface because that would stop snowmobile travel, so that makes it harder to move logging trucks over it. The trail will stay open except for minor 10 /15 minute shutdowns as they move equipment. Notices are out on the trail at Washington Junction and there will be two more at Card Crossing Road and Tunk Lake Road as well as one at Unionville Road with information about what is going on and what to expect. People will be adequately warned by flaggers too. At end of project, if the trail is rutted, a bulldozer will smooth it up as necessary. The surface should be fine in spring as they are only dragging on top of the snow, not on the surface, but Bangor Hydro has purchased the remaining final surface material if they need it. Steve asked if we had any concerns about the construction. Bill said that we didn't with the construction *per se*, but that one concern is that if something were to happen, the trail would be repaired – that the gravel was compacted (rolled) and needs to stay that way, but that we feel that Bangor Hydro understands. Steve said they want to keep trail open as much as possible. Bill said we will deal with the necessary shut downs in favor of better power and that we appreciate Bangor Hydro's efforts to do it right. Today they are at mile 16.

- **Upcoming Event on Jan. 29 with Andy Santerre** - Everything is on the website and the snowmobile site. Andy will not be here, but they will Skype at Cherryfield Elementary School. Money will go to the Beth Wright Center and the Narraguagus Snowmobile Club. The cost to participate is for one machine and rider and then an extra fee for a passenger. Charlie will be able to ride it with the state snowmobile (he has a new one!).
- **Benefit Walk for Huntington's Disease** - There has been a request to use the trail for a 50/50 benefit walk on 9/18/11 for Huntington's Disease. Charlie will send Nancy Patterson a permit application.
- Bill asked if we need to generate maintenance funds for the trail. Charlie said that DOC has funds for this, part of which is Charlie's salary and part for maintenance. Sally would like to talk to the grooming clubs about using a snowmobile to pull a tracker for skiers—we could have a sign that the track is for the skiers – feasibility might depend on the snow conditions. Skiers might agree to help if we could buy or borrow the sleds. At Acadia National Park, volunteers set the tracks. Misha told us Cobscook State Park sets tracks in the park and for skate skiing in one section. Washington County Community College sets and grooms at Baring. Tim suggested that maybe UMM's outdoor recreation people might be able to help. Would be great to investigate this.
- Steve had a question regarding funding. Is most of the funding for the trail primarily for maintenance of the trail? Probably it is for equipment, i.e. tractor (capital investment) so that we can maintain the trail or other capital investments such as trail heads, facilities, etc. Bill asked if Steve has ever spoken with Bill Clark with Hancock County. They have a tractor (not sure of condition) and maybe other things such as bush hogs. Or maybe York Rake (when needed). Bill Clark has an equipment barn somewhere and the folks at the jail might be able to help too. Sally suggested approaching the county commissioners prior to budget season regarding support. There are budget advisory committees, but they are up against the 3% rule when it comes to expanding the budget. It might help to just be able to access some of what they already have. Bill Clark is good contact and knows the ropes. **Add to our to-do list to check with the county commissioners** (Betsy Fitzgerald is the manager in Washington County).

## Old Business

1. **Signage Committee Report and Discussion:** This was put on hold. Tabled for today and **added to to-do list**.
2. **BHE land mitigation** – Where do we stand? There are two properties involved: Manning Property and Gay Frost Property. There has been a lot of email correspondence and at one point a detailed management report. Summary: it is going ahead. Both are approved by DEP and the Corps of Engineers. We've been assured that permits are coming and have been given authorization to begin clearing while the final permits are being written. A mitigation package was required for the permit. Once we have the permit, there will be 30 to 60 days to do it. Everything is defined with acreage and mapping. Then we'll need a restrictive deed on the land before it's conveyed. Language has been approved by the recipients of the land, DEP and the Corps. Steve Rees has gone over it and Skip and Charlie have reviewed it. Management plan is a required component. The way the restrictive deed is written can be a model for the plan. Steve has a draft for the purpose of getting approval – it can be modified later. This was rushed through at the end of the year and the package was approved. Now we are in this 30/60 day window to close it all out, hopefully starting in the next week.

Skip will do the plan with the model that Steve gives him. It is simple and set up in the deed restrictions including mapping. DEP did not approve the concept of 10% allowed for limited development, so this was rectified by pulling those acres out of the package and mapping this out on the ground. Those acres are not in the mitigation package and the state will own them so they are not under restrictive deed. Everything is in order and both have potential for camping. There is also potential for parking at Tunk Lake Road and maybe a privy.

### **3. Address Lists**

Peter has a membership database. Sally's list was incorporated into Peter's list as much as he could at the time. Sally asked Peter to send her his list and she'll compare it with hers so that new contacts can be added or he can go through her updated list.

### **4. Newsletter**

These are going out shortly. Some contributions are here and will be sent in. Jim will pull the newsletter together.

- Peter has the mailing list from April in his computer, but it just needs to be updated with the membership list. Peter can make a master list in Excel – the list is there and constant contact can add the new ones automatically. We have gained about 15 to 20 people. Peter will add them all to the Constant Contact list and make sure they match. Jim Fisher can do Access and has set it up.
- Bill said that we will soon need an postal address list and that Constant Contact may only have the email address – Bill recalls that there were about 425 on the address list and there were about 400 newsletters printed, so some were not sent. Will the newsletter also be on Constant Contact? Yes because we are paying for it anyway and doesn't cost anything extra. Name, address email and telephone numbers should be on master list if available.
- If the newsletter comes out after the 29<sup>th</sup>, Charlie won't include the Santerre run. It won't be out by then. Charlie has information on construction and Steve will get him a picture. Steve has also written a piece and Charlie will work it in. Jim has been ready for a while and Maggie has said she would help edit. Everything is aligned; we are just getting the content together.
- We have to vote on Ian Strout as Secretary. Sally moved to nominate Ian as Secretary. Polly seconded. If STC could become an RC&D Project perhaps Barbara Maurer could record the minutes even if Ian is the secretary. All in favor, motion carried.

### **5. Snowmobiling on the Trail this winter** - Topic covered under Charlie's report.

### **6. Outhouses**

- Where? Currently we have port-a-potties at Ayers Junction and Washington Junction. Costs for these two would be about \$2400 per year if it were ongoing.
- If we build some, we face the issue of maintenance. From Jake Taylor's comments we know that Ray will pump them out for \$45 per pumping – in summer this would have to be once a month or more. Would Bill Clark do this with the "work release program" perhaps? Misha sent out information on this and the cost is \$45 per pump, but other incidents over the year happen that require other attention such as vandalism that might require a power wash, etc. Maybe we could start with an outhouse at Tunk Lake, but it will be awhile until the Manning property is developed as a facility. Washington Junction and Ayers Junction might be closer to being ready. If we had a place in Machias to put it on, it would be good because there are people around to deter vandalism. We have to figure out where the money would come from. To build these costs money and to maintain them will cost about \$1000 per year. Bill thinks towns or clubs might chip

into this fund. A Friend & Friend “Run for the Potty” fundraiser is a possibility too, if we wanted to do this.

- We need a committee – Tim signed on for this as he knows both Kyle and Bill Clark. Currently Washington Junction is the end of the trail. When it goes into Ellsworth, it could terminate at the Star Center (several sites possible, but probably behind LL Bean, near Comfort Inn) where there will be facilities, but Washington Junction would still be the recommended parking area for pickups and trailers, so Washington Junction is best location on that end of the trail. Ayers Junction, Machias, Franklin, Cherryfield and perhaps Tunk Lake Road are other key locations.
- Misha asked if the Machias Chamber has an expansion plan. Gail said there is currently no restroom and that they hope to move into the Railroad Station, but there will not be a restroom there either. The Town is against pursuing a public restroom because of vandalism/maintenance so it will be up to the trail to do this. Misha said we need to pursue the discussion of where one could be located. Gail suggested using port-a-potties to see about best location and usage before we built a permanent structure. The people who rent these do pay attention to usage.
- Gail added that the chamber is not open all the time. If DEST contributed money to the restoration of the station and if there were also a bathroom indoors, maybe the chamber would be more receptive to the idea. Kathleen Shannon might have a sense for the best placement too. Gail will ask her.
- Machias, Washington Junction and Ayers Junction are no-brainers and other places could be tried. There is a permanent need, but we can do an interim solution. Capital to build is there – the issue is being prepared to maintain them. Recreation Trail Program (RTP) (apply by Nov.) pays for parking, kiosks, trails, educational materials, outhouses, etc. It is federal highway money managed by the state. Up to \$50,000 can be requested.
- Peter asked if there was any information available on the usage of the trail. Carl Knoch from Rails to Trails has said he would do a study, but it would cost money. Sally will send Peter Carl's address. Even a traffic counter would be great. It would point to where the need is greatest and would be good to have the information for all kinds of uses (expansion, grant information, etc.). Misha will send information on which counters are best and their cost (sets of 3) so we can decide if we want to fundraise for this. We can't piggy-back on the park's order, but Misha will email the information and if it's reasonable we can do it. Peter will also talk to Rick Scribner to see if his students can help with research the numbers. Misha said she's had luck with Andrea Ednie for this type of thing, so Peter will talk to her too.

## **7. Rest Areas on the Trail:**

- When shall we start to scope out locations? It is somewhat premature, but Charlie has some sites in mind, some for picnic tables, some with a view, where there could be a bench. The Dennysville Club is moving forward on its own and someone installed a picnic table on the trail in East Machias this fall. One good site would be at the East Machias line near Rocky Lake just east of 191. Also somewhere in the Cathance Stream/Great Works area. Tables would be great at Ayers Junction and Washington Junction. Also in Cherryfield at the bridge beside the trail at the cable pool—the town has done improvements at the bridge and it's a very pretty spot. Also on the island in Schoodic Bog, though there could sometimes be a challenge with accessibility. Charlie will make a map with photos of his suggestions and their pros and cons. The organization may need to vote on this, but we could use grant money for this. Tables first and then shelters as money allows.
- By November, if we could have bigger vision of what we want to do including shelters, we could apply with RTP (above) – it's a once a year opportunity and it takes a while for the money to

come and may not always be there, so good to use it now and have a plan. Sally said there might be money from Land and Water Conservation (LWC), too, perhaps for shelters. When kiosks are up, we could tap prison carpenters to build shelters/tables. Gail said it's also good to give business to local community too, so the trail gains local support. If we put tables, it would be consistent to put a shelter there too, to put it on the map. As sites are chosen a counter would justify the tables/shelters. First step is to design the map. With RTP it's up to \$50,000 per year which might cover 3-4 shelters plus privies perhaps. LWC is a 60/40 match. RTP is 20% match and we could use the grant for seed match.

- Misha said it's good to have a capital plan for our needs over a period of time. She had a meeting yesterday with the East Coast Greenway, Bicycle Coalition of Maine and DOT regarding the need/interest for contributing toward a plan. It became a general meeting about working together to make a Capital Investment Plan incorporating best practices. If we have the spots identified, Misha can help put a plan together by the Nov. RTP grant deadline. If Charlie can get these on the map and share these, we can look at the list and prioritize it regarding resources/support/marketing materials in a way that prevents duplication of efforts. Bill added that it is good to list all groups supporting a project when applying for grants. Sally said that some things could be done now such as letters of support, to prepare as much as we can ahead of time.
- Misha also suggested a shift in thinking of DEST as a way to access other attractions in the area and integrating side excursions.

**8. Joe Mc Brine's trail rescue equipment:** Sally has emailed and called Joe. Bill talked to Kyle and someone at Friend & Friend has been in touch with Joe. ATV folks give out ATVs and discounts, but Joe doesn't fit into a category so they have to work out a way to do this. Bill has not heard from Joe, but Kyle is doing the best he can (side by side is what he wants). Tim asked if there is a fixed amount. Joe has indicated that he needs \$2000 in addition to several promises and gifts he presently has. Gail read from her notes from the October meeting. A motion was made to match \$1000 (from the proceeds from the Friend and Friend Benefit Ride) with \$1000 from our available cash for a total of \$2000 to Joe's cause. Since the Benefit netted \$2335 we should proceed with this. Bill will notify Joe.

**9. Sally moved to apply to RC&D to become a project and get support.** All agreed with the idea. Charlie has worked with them on several projects. Bill or Sally will call Heidi. The next RC&D Meeting is January 27 at 9:30 am.

## **10. Kiosks**

Materials for the kiosks are purchased and at the prison. Charlie expects them to be built this winter/spring. Perhaps we can ask them about the possibility of shelter/table construction too.

## **Other Business:**

### **1. Complaints from East Machias trail neighbor(again)**

- Charlie got complaint (not anonymous) that riders are going too fast and about late night use
- Eleody got an anonymous complaint.
- Sally had one, but couldn't catch the name. She sent it to Joe and Scott. We could talk to clubs, but it could be anybody, not necessarily club members.
- Gail said we might need to make changes such as no traveling in settled areas at night.
- Peter received an email from Eleody who wanted to reiterate that we should try local clubs to see if they have leverage first.

- Charlie puts speed signs out there but they are not enforceable. He talked to the Riverside owner and there is still a problem there. In E. Machias the houses are elevated so noise affects them more/echo
- Bill got a complaint east of Franklin from a farm. Charlie called but no call back. Bill's complaint was regarding weekend traffic, which we can't help.
- Peter said that considering the whole scheme of things, the complaints are mild and on some there's nothing to be done. Some are just getting used to the change.
- The people who complain have real concerns and we will do the best we can to help alleviate them. We'll get back to them, that we discussed their issues and will try to do what we can, without making promises
- Is there a formal complaint process with state? To change use of trail due to local impact? All complaints are forwarded to Scott and Charlie too. They are being tracked and they go through the chain of command.

## **2. Next meetings - NOTE CHANGES:**

- February 15, 4:00 P.M. - The Grind, Ellsworth
- March 22, 4:00 P.M. - Helen's, Machias

3. Gail announced that Frank Cassidy was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is being treated in the Portland area. There will be a fundraiser on 1/29 at Holy Name Parish Hall on Rte. 192, across from MVNO, at 5:00 p.m. Please attend if you can.
4. Do we have an updated list of board members and officers? Sally wanted to get Ian's name on it, so it hasn't been sent out yet, but now it will be.
5. Misha is working with Mainetrailfinder.com – DOC is participating in loading its trails onto this site as a statewide resource for non-motorized trails. Washington County is being loaded now and they are adding a trail a week. The question is who to work with on the mapping. Jim, perhaps? Kevin Riley is the contact at DOT. There are 4 already up for Washington County, then they'll do a second area and the whole state will eventually follow. It will be a challenge to add the DEST because it is so long, but it will be good. The website is based on googlemaps technology with different uses such as geographic searches, interactive maps, photos, etc. Jim is the one to work with. Misha is also working with Mick Rogers to get all the Parks and Lands trails in the state on there as well. Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund will work with trail managers of land trusts, Roosevelt Campobello Intl. Park, etc., to try to get them on there too.
6. Charlie needs a list of amenities on the trail, as many people are asking for information on where to stay and how to get there on a snowmobile. There needs to be a list for different groups, perhaps jointly with the chambers of commerce. Letters could be sent to businesses regarding signage and suggesting they mention that they are near DEST in their marketing efforts. They could highlight this on the DownEast & Acadia Regional Tourism ([www.downeastacadia.com](http://www.downeastacadia.com)) site too. Signage Committee will work on this. Gail will help.

## **7. Adjourn**

6:30

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Mauer, Downeast RC&D