



Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting
Tuesday, March 29, 2011, 4-6 p.m.
Helen's Restaurant
Meeting Minutes

Present: John Ashmore, Bill Ceckler, Polly Ceckler, Bill Cherry, Ken Clark, Charles Corliss, Jim Fisher, Jeremy Gabrielson, Sally Jacobs, Jay Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Peter Knowles, Misha Mytar, Gail Peters, Stephen D. Rees, Kathleen Shannon, Steve Sloan, Ian Staub, Skip Varney, Dave Wood, Bernadette Wyman, Barbara Maurer

Meeting called to order at 4:05 by Bill.

- 1. Welcome and sign-in sheet passed around** – Thanks to Ian for agreeing to be Treasurer. Dave has been treasurer and will remain until May after the tax filing is done or perhaps until July when the Post Office Box in Hallowell runs out. Thanks to Barbara for taking the notes. Thank to Jim Fisher for his excellent newsletter, website and the maintenance of the site.
- 2. Approval of February Meeting Minutes** – The minutes are posted on the website, which is great. Bill depends on everyone to look the minutes up. One correction on Item 7, c, iii, which should read “Restrictions will *not* be recorded on these parcels”. Sally moved, Dave seconded to accept the minutes as amended.
- 3. Treasurer’s Report** - Dave presented his report with a couple of corrections. There was a deposit of \$50.00 for 2 memberships and a check written for the corporate registration with the state for \$35.00. Balance is: \$12,929.00. Steve Rees raised the question regarding the requirements of the grants and what restrictions there are on spending that money. Sally moved and Sandy seconded to approve the report as amended.
- 4. Manager’s Report** – Charlie reported the following:
 - a. Trail closed to all but pedestrians from 3/15 to 5/15. It could open up earlier (esp. the portion between East Machias and Machias, which is drying well), but it’s better to post it for longer than will be necessary.
 - b. Events
 - i. 6/4 – Down East Health Services in Hancock (and whole trail on bikes) (permit already)
 - ii. 9/18 - Huntington’s Disease (hike and bike) in the Ellsworth area (permit already).
 - iii. 6/5 – Friend and Friend is sponsoring another trail event (no permit yet, but seems fine, so they will apply). It is Trails Week, so this can be the trail celebration as well.
 - c. Repairs
 - i. There was one washout in Jonesboro and some touchup work needed in the Dennysville area, but overall the trail wintered pretty well. There was a lot of money put into the causeway erosion/repair of box culvert last fall, but these seem to be in decent shape.

5. Signage Committee Report – no report

6. BHE Activities – Charlie gave an overview that construction started in January and they had to plow some sections (which interrupted snowmobiling in some areas), but mostly things went well and they are almost done. Sally added that there was one complaint which was handled very well by Sklp, Charlie and Steve. Bill added there have been compliments from some people. Steve Sloan distributed maps and photos of the work which he went through. He thanked STC for its support.

- a. They hoped to be further along, but they made good progress. Green areas on map are complete, blue will be done when things dry out and pink areas have vernal pools, so will be done after 7/1/11. Blue areas should take 2 weeks; pink areas should take one more week. Safety was the number one priority so there were escorts and notices of “poor conditions” where/when they existed during the project.
- b. About 80% of the trail was left in perfect condition. Bangor Hydro will fix the damage that was done when Charlie gives the ok. Repairs will include a combination of light grading and rolling.
- c. Next step after finishing will be line construction starting at the west end of the trail working east. DOC would prefer this to be in summer, but Bangor Hydro has requested summer, fall & winter (July to November) in case they need it. Line construction is less intensive (doesn't touch every section of the trail and uses less equipment and less big equipment). Poles are set first, then framing is done, wire pulling and finally environmental restoration. This chain of progress will be about 3 or more miles in length as it moves eastward. Bangor Hydro will use same safety protocols so the trail will not be closed
- d. Cleanup of cleared areas will include mulching and seeding the landings (some will be suitable for picnic areas – Charlie will help identify the spots).

7. Rest Areas and Out Houses on the trail

- a. Charlie distributed a list of places along the trail that would be good, scenic picnic areas (attached at end of minutes). All are within the 66 foot limits of the trail. Suggestion to find a spot in the Franklin area as well.
 - i. Between mile 79 and 80, the owner's have constructed a shelter on their own land, near where the trail leads off to their camps (Robinson's Camps). They have plans for a privy too and they have bought bikes to rent out.
 - ii. Columbia Falls was suggested, but this is a very high location. Chandler River or the Worcester Wildlife Section (between Jonesboro and Chandler River)
 - iii. The yard areas/turn outs that have been cleared and or leveled by Bangor Hydro might be good locations too. If there is one that is well situated, we should let Bangor Hydro know and they might be able to help with grading and smoothing. One suggestion was the parking area at the 183 siding, but there's a vernal pool there.
 - iv. Sally moved to use the Rails to Trail money to purchase 15 picnic tables. After some discussion, Sally revised her motion to use the Rails to Trails money to purchase 15 tables and have Charlie investigate the best buy for these considering financial and local businesses. Sandy seconded. Motion carried. Steve Rees will help and they will also look into where DOT tables have gone, possible donations of materials/tables and assembly, if necessary. Decision will be at the next meeting.

- v. Are there other management issues that DOC/BPL is aware of? Misha said that tables need to be sturdy, heavy and suitable for more than backyard use. DOC's tables are ADA compliant as well.
 - vi. Trash containers – the Dennysville Club has trash cans at each end of their section and they take care of them. Could be done by other clubs too. Trash Cans near toilets are often good to prevent people from putting their trash in the toilets.
 - vii. Signage for Carry In/Carry Out would be good as well.
 - viii. Ian said that in Franklin, near the Blueberry Factory there might be a good parking area. He has spoken to the manager who seemed agreeable. Maybe Charlie can speak to him as well to get more into details.
- b. Currently there are two port-a-potties (Washington Junction/ Ayers Junction). They are being kept clean and no vandalism so far.
- i. Misha wasn't able to reach Tim, but got some information on pricing for vault toilets from BPL (\$2500/toilet/installed) and the Parks (\$4000/toilet/installed). There is RTP funding available, but STC needs to show that they there is maintenance fund/plan over the next 5 years. RC&D could help with applying for funding too. The thought is for one each at Washington Junction/Ayers Junction and perhaps 183.
 - ii. Issue isn't so much finding funding for the toilets, but planning (budgeting for and getting someone to be responsible for the cleaning/pumping of them). Charlie suggested putting it out to the clubs for cleaning, weekly maintenance. Bill will write to the clubs. Charlie will give him the addresses.
 - iii. Misha will get together with Tim regarding a maintenance fund and figure out realistically what is needed and will come up with amount and proposal for the next meeting.
- c. Trail Use Counter and RTP grant - Skip believes they have money for 3 counters. Rex had said there were different counters for different uses (pedestrians, ATVs, etc.). Misha said the bureau is pursuing 3 counters on the trail this year to get some data. Rex Turner might be able to help. Or if we got some volunteers together we could do some counting on designated days. Or perhaps interns (the bureau has 1 intern and a 6 month AmeriCorps position open). Charlie will also talk to businesses about weekend counts/volume.

8. Trail extensions

- a. Moosehorn- Misha spoke with Bill Kolodnicki regarding what is allowed on the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge's trails. Bill said there is a marked bike route that is part of the East Coast Greenway (Ice House Road). There are cars on this sometimes (fall), but it's mostly for mountain biking. There is also one section open for Snowmobiles (not ATVs) that links from Calais to ITS 84. There is a rail line through Moosehorn, but the refuge has never been approached regarding other uses for the corridor (which is owned by DOT), but Moosehorn would be open to it if DOT is. Perhaps there could be a trail built next to the rail line. Sally and Dave will meet with Dan Stewart in April and can bring this up at the next meeting.
- b. Ellsworth is a top priority
- c. Schoodic to Schoodic– tabled.

9. Joe McBrine's Rescue Sled – Last Tuesday Yamaha was going to decide on this. Bill talked to Joe, who still has not heard. Decision is imminent

10. Newsletter – Newsletters went out and look great. Extra copies were passed out to the group and it is also on the website.

11. RC&D Project –

- a. Help with funding for Rest Areas and Outhouses – we'll continue to talk with them about their resources
- b. Organizational Support – likewise
- c. Booklet with list of amenities – Misha has applied to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund to develop a trip planner online as a guide to the trail with itineraries, links to business services and to DART's online database for area tourism businesses. This would start in summer and we'll know next week if they got the grant. Some businesses are already on the DART website – www.downeastacadia.com. Please send your suggestions of businesses that need to be on there. There is one challenge of what to do with businesses such as gas stations that do not fit DART's criteria, but we are looking for solutions. Perhaps chambers could support putting a list together with businesses, including their distance from the trail. If anyone has good samples of this type of book, please bring them. Charlie has made a list of businesses adjacent to the trail, which have different user groups (the further from the trail, the less it will work for all the user groups) – he'll add mile post locations and a coding system for user groups. Misha will help.

12. Kiosks – Charlie spoke to JJ at the Correctional Facility and two kiosks are built as much as they can inside. The rest will be on site, assembling them. Assembly will be likely mid-April at Ayers Junction after which they'll set the date for Washington Junction. Charlie is checking with Sheriff Clark to make sure the workers are allowed to go to Hancock County to assemble the kiosk there (JJ thinks it is ok), likely in May after the dig safe is filed.

13. Next Meetings -

April 26,	The Maine Grind, Ellsworth,	4:00 to 6:00
May 24,	Down East RC&D, Cherryfield,	4:30 – 6:30
June 15 th ,	Helen's Restaurant, Machias,	4:00 – 6:00

14. Announcements

- a. Maine Bike Books are available
- b. Great American Bike Swap in Orono on 5/1/11. Sally moved, Polly seconded to spend \$25.00 to have a table and a banner there. Motion carried.
- c. Gail commented on the better surface on the first 2 miles of the trail
- d. Charlie found a storage cabinet at Lowes for under \$200. Sally moved to authorize him to spend up to \$250 to purchase it. Polly seconded. Motion carried.
- e. Charlie passed around new ATV maps.
- f. Kathleen said the local club has no money for a trail map. Charlie said there was a map last year that gets people to the trail, but isn't a map for riding the trail. Jim has a downloadable expandable map on the website too. Skip suggested that local clubs can produce their own maps with ATV Maine or the Maine Snowmobile Association.
- g. Mainetrailfinder.com has good trail information, only for non-motorized use.

- h. Charlie also needs to buy brochure holders for his office and to put at kiosks (like you see outside real estate offices). He'll work with Kathleen on the real estate type holders. Sally moved and Polly seconded to authorize him to spend up to another \$50.00 for the brochure holders at his office.

15. Adjournment at 6:05

DEST			
Rest area/picnic sites (mile post approximate)			
Location	Town	Mile Post	map site
Washington Junction	Hancock	MP 2	wpt011
Schoodic Bog	Sullivan	MP 15 ½	wpt010
Narraguagus River	Cherryfield	MP 29 ½	wpt009
Machias River	Whitneyville	MP 55	wpt008
Machias Causeway	Machias	MP 59	wpt007
EMARC	E. Machias	MP 62 ½	wpt006
E. Machias River	E. Machias	MP 65	wpt005
Southern Inlet	E.Machias/Berry Twp	MP 70 ¼	wpt004
Cathance Stream	Marion	MP 77 ½	wpt003
Dennys River	Dennysville	MP 80 ½	wpt002
Ayers Junction	Pembroke	MP 87	wpt001

Note

Should locate a site between Cherryfield and Whitneyville