

## **Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting Minutes**

### **June 15, 2010, 4:00 P.M., The Maine Grind, Ellsworth**

**Present:** Polly Ceckler, Bill Cherry, Stephanie Clement, Charlie Corliss, Roland Donovan, Jr., Jeremy Gabrielson, Sally Jacobs, Sandy Johnson, Peter Knowles, Richard Moore, Gail Peters, Stephen Rees, Steve Sloan, Ian J. Staub, Timothy Tunney, Skip Varney, Dave Wood

#### **1. Meeting Times and Minutes**

Sally called the meeting to order as Bill Ceckler is away. She polled the committee on whether Wednesdays or Tuesdays were preferred for meetings. The consensus was to keep the next two meetings on July 20<sup>th</sup> in Machias and August 17<sup>th</sup> in Ellsworth.

**MOTION:** To approve the May 2010 minutes.  
**MADE BY:** Polly Ceckler  
**SECOND:** Gail Peters  
**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

#### **2. Treasurer's Report**

Dave distributed the Treasurer's report. The grants balance is \$6,688 and the general fund is \$6,631. Two membership renewals were received at the meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the June 2010 Treasurer's Report.  
**MADE BY:** Stephen Rees  
**SECOND:** Peter Knowles  
**VOTE:** Unanimously approved.

#### **3. Update from Maine Department of Conservation (MDOC)**

Charlie reported that the contractor Vaughn Thibodeau is re-organizing into VTS3, which involves many of the same staff people as before. Charlie added that there is a bond company involved, as well, so the work continues as normal on the trail. Charlie said that the trail is scheduled to be completed in September or early October. He said that the contractors were grading and rolling the trail from Whitneyville to Columbia Falls and installing beaver deceivers. Charlie reported that the final trail surface has been laid down to the Columbia/Harrington town line. He added that about a mile per day can be completed, but if the rock crusher breaks down, it slows down the process.

Sally asked about re-drafting the Down East Sunrise Trail brochure – whether new trailhead parking areas would be added. Charlie said that it would depend on securing permission from lot owners. He added that at some sidings, it is unclear how much the state owns.

Steve offered to work with Charlie to approach property owners in the Cherryfield area to secure permission for parking. Jeremy asked about parking in the gravel near the Dunkin' Donuts. Charlie said this has been an issue. Bill Cherry recommended putting in stakes and twine to direct ATVs away from the Dunkin' Donuts. I think there were two discussions going on at the same time. One concerned the graveled area across from Dunkin Donuts which is private property. This may become a problem. The second problem is apparently the ATV trail that starts back of the Dunkin Donuts and the ATVs go through the Dunkin Donut parking lot and/or park there.

Sally added that parking and bathroom facilities need to be decided for the entire trail. Peter said that he may be putting in a portable toilet and picnic table on his property. Sally said that because the trail is a state facility, permanent facilities should be planned. She added that the Sunrise Trail Coalition has a small grant for trailhead facilities. Charlie wondered whether the Sunrise Trail Coalition could place portable toilets on the trail this year. Charlie also recommended that we work with the local clubs on establishing parking outside the state's right of way.

Richard recommended that signs are needed for crossing Route 1 in Machias. Gail said that the dike is a good place for parking, but Charlie added that it doesn't work for trailers. Gail wondered whether a crosswalk could be painted. Charlie said he is pursuing recreation trail crossing signs. Gail asked about parking at the Pellon Center. Charlie said that the state owns some land there, and the parking has been acceptable. Richard said that rocks are being put down daily at the Pellon Center. Is this to mark Pellon's territory?

Charlie reported that 99% of the trail culverts have been installed from the east to the Schoodic Bog. He said a culvert crew is still working from Franklin to Hancock. In Franklin, the railroad ties are being sorted and will eventually be hauled away by a sub-contractor. Charlie said he hopes the trail will be completed through Franklin next month. He added that the section through the Schoodic Bog needs to be done. Two 15-inch culverts were installed to control the dam.

Bill Cherry asked about the Rt. 192 road crossing – whether the steel removal at crossings would be standard over the whole trail. Charlie said that it depends on the location and what paving or repairs were being done.

Ian (selectboard member from Franklin) asked about who is responsible for rescue. Charlie said that it is the same as before the trail was built. Ian is also concerned about the trail crossing the road. He thinks the warning signs are not far enough in advance of the crossing. Gail added that towns can put up safety signs in addition to the DOC signs.

Charlie said that work on the washout on the dike has not progressed, but a contract is expected to be signed soon, and work will begin within the next few weeks. The stones will be replaced with larger ones. The work must be done in accordance with tide schedules, and the trail will be closed for 4-5 days while the work is being done. Charlie said that the sheet piling caused the water to swirl in behind it and erode away the trail. Skip added that because the trail has to be built for carrying trains, the Department of Conservation had to continue to pursue using a causeway built for rail rather than a bridge adequate for a trail.

The Board decided to use the regular July board meeting to plan a trail celebration in August. Sally added that Dierdre Fleming from the *Portland Press Herald* will be doing a story and has contacted Charlie and Bill Ceckler?. Bill also recommended that Dierdre speak with Gary Dowling for an ATV ride. Sally also wondered if bicycles could be included in that ride.

Sally asked who owns the remaining rails, and Skip replied that the bonding company does. Skip said that because of the extra expenditures needed on the trail, there is not much funding anticipated left over from construction.

Dave said that he got a call from a woman in Columbia Falls who was upset over noise. He referred her to Charlie. Charlie said that there is a crusher in the area, which is the origin of the noise. This will end as soon as the trail progresses. Gail wondered whether the website includes progress reports on the trail and also on such things as construction activity and noise.

Charlie said that the Downeast Correctional Facility is ready to work on the kiosks, but he has been busy. Another desired location for a kiosk is Cherryfield because traffic is anticipated to be high between Cherryfield and Franklin. As Steve and Charlie reach out to businesses in the Cherryfield region regarding parking, they will also inquire about possible kiosk locations. Charlie suggested the Narraguagus Snowmobile club, and Bill recommended the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) service center.

Richard Moore mentioned that an ATV safety class is being offered in Machias when?.

#### **4. Newsletter**

Sally said that the printed newsletters are expensive, and shorter e-newsletters more frequently may be a good idea. She added that there are three mailing lists that need to be combined. Not all people have given the Sunrise Trail Coalition (STC) their e-mail addresses and many may not have them. Peter offered to help with combining the lists and contacting those without e-mail addresses to see if they would like to give them to the STC. Whether to maintain the membership list in Excel or Access was discussed. Jeremy also suggested that Constant Contact or Survey Monkey may be good for sending out e-newsletters because they keep track of the list for you. He added the

downside is that you can't send an attachment. Gail, Peter, Dave, and Jeremy (and Kathleen Shannon?) will meet to determine the best way to maintain the membership and outreach mailing list, given the need to e-mail monthly newsletters and meeting announcements. Sally also observed that at least one printed newsletter per year would be a good idea.

## **5. Signage Committee**

Sally said that Chair Rick Scribner has been busy with the trip season that has started, but the signage committee should continue to meet. Skip handed out copies of the state's signage guidelines for snowmobile and ATV trails. He said most signs are recommended to be 12" x 12" and safety or directionally focused. A discussion ensued about whether the state would be able to install signs on the trail, how to avoid proliferation of signage, and continuity of materials among signs.

Jeremy said that the Sunrise Trail Coalition's draft guidelines were the beginning of a dialogue with the state. Sally concurred, but the committee will need to meet again to finalize everything prior to the anticipated demand in the fall. The signage committee will meet in Machias at Helen's Restaurant from 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. on July 20<sup>th</sup> (before the STC Board meeting). Skip said that MDOC examined how the Down East Sunrise Trail signage policy might affect other trails, but determined that this trail is unique because it is an MDOT facility managed by MDOC.

Sally reminded everyone that MDOC agreed to put up the East Coast Greenway signs. Steve asked whether the locations/number of signs had been decided. Sally said that it was important to have them at road and trail crossings. Charlie said there are 46 road crossings and approximately 6 trail crossings. He will bring the official number with him to the next sign meeting. He recommended using the smaller signs (3.5" x 5.5"). Dave volunteered to bring an example of this smaller sign to the next meeting. Bill added that in his experience, the cardboard-like plastic signs wear well. Skip said that MDOC has used heavy gauge plastic. Sally recommended that everyone bring examples and cost estimates to the sign meeting. Charlie also reported that he is working on converting the Down East Sunrise Trail logo to a digital format that the sign company can use for the trail signs. Tony Barrett has sent an e-mail with the estimate of the estimated number of signs needed.

## **6. Kiosks**

Each kiosk will have several maps - a big one for the entire DEST trail and an enlarged section map on the MDOC side of the kiosk,. On the STC side there will be business signs in a uniform size and format, plus a map showing where these nearby businesses are located. It will also have a map showing the entire East Coast Greenway and in appropriate places, where the ECG veers off the DEST. On the MDOC side there will be posted regulations for trail use. On the STC side there will be a section for messages/announcements from the STC

## **7. Update on Bangor Hydro**

Steve Rees updated the Board that they are still finalizing the STC representatives and membership of the committee to review and work on Bangor Hydro proposals. Steve Sloan from Bangor Hydro distributed brochures showing what the right-of-way and poles will look like. He added that Bangor Hydro is hoping to put in a new transmission line between Ellsworth and Columbia Falls. For about 12 miles, the line will be co-located with the Down East Sunrise Trail. Steve Sloan added that Bangor Hydro will be filing for permits with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers by the end of June. These applications will be available at town offices along the route. Public information meetings will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Cherryfield and June 24<sup>th</sup> in Franklin. Bangor Hydro hopes to clear the right of way during January- March 2011. From August 2011 to August 2012, Bangor Hydro will be working on line construction and the substation. The goal is to energize the system in November 2012.

Sally asked whether detours would be in place when Bangor Hydro is working in the trail corridor. Steve Sloan said that Bangor Hydro would work with the Sunrise Trail Committee throughout the process. He said they hope to avoid closures, and any that occur will be temporary in nature. Skip added that MDOC has experience with working with power companies and trails in Northern Maine.

Steve Sloan showed photo simulations of what the new electric line will look like. He said that the right of way will be widened and cleared from 53 ft. to 130 ft. There will be a single set of poles that will contain the old and new electric lines. The new poles will be put up first before the old ones are taken down.

## **8. Other updates**

Bill Cherry said that approximately \$3K by clubs has been spent on fixing mud holes and other problems on the 504 trail. This will be a 75-mile loop connecting to and including the DEST. The goal is to make the trail multi-use. It should be mountain-bikeable.

Jeremy said that Cherryfield has gotten a Community Development Block Grant to put a sidewalk on Route 193 between South Bridge and North Bridge. Additionally Jeremy has funding from MDOT to prepare bicycle and pedestrian plans for the villages in Washington County along the trail. Part of this is to examine how to connect them to the trail. Jeremy said he would like to work with a subcommittee of the Sunrise Trail Coalition on this project. Steve Rees said he would be interested, and Ian Staub asked to be kept informed. Sally added that Jacob Van de Sande might be another good candidate. Gail said that Machias is working on an historic walking trail that might interface with the Down East Sunrise Trail. Jeremy suggested that the signage

committee might discuss how to direct visitors to these resources. Sally suggested that kiosks might assist.

Sally said that the feasibility study for the STAR Center in Ellsworth is nearing completion. However, the project itself is at a standstill until MDOT knows whether it will be able to extend the Down East Sunrise Trail (through a rail with trail) into Ellsworth.

Sally said that the Bicycle Coalition of Maine will be writing an article on business development as a result of the Down East Sunrise Trail. Sally said that she gave them several names of people to interview, but she asked people to get in touch with her if they have ideas for additional interview candidates.

#### **9. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. at Helens Restaurant in Machias. The Sign Committee will also meet on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 p.m. at Helens

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Stephanie M. Clement**  
**Secretary**