

## Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting

07/18/2017

### Meeting Minutes

Attending: Crystal Hitchings, Jim Fisher, Andy Gallant, Gerry Nasberg, Sandy Johnson, Carol Cuddy, Stephen Rees, Charlie Corliss, Bill Ceckler, Polly Ceckler, Charlie Robinson, Ray Archer, Jen Boothroyd, Ian Staub

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M.

Motion to approve the minutes from June meeting.

- Amend date to 2017
- Approved as amended

Presentation by Internity – Planning an event on the trail in Washington County

- Rock climbing/Hiking/Honor and Help Veterans
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>
- Harrington –Machias
- They have insurance
- Hope to include the whole trail in 2018

Treasurers Report – see handout / email

- Bank Balance               \$21,487
- General Fund               \$14,844.63
- Box Car Grant:             \$5,643.27
- Bangor Savings Bank:    \$1,000.00
- Actions needed
  - Need to have a new name on the Bar Harbor Bank Account to write checks
  - Currently Carol Cuddy and Ian are approved
  - Carol will check to see if Stephen is also approved
  - Ian will turn over the box to Carol

Manager's Report

- Bills and Funds
- Clothing
  - Ordered Hats at \$12.20 each
    - Proposed \$15.00 each
  - Long Sleeve Shirts
    - Proposed \$20.00

- Charlie can order these
  - T-Shirts – still have a sufficient inventory
    - Price \$10.00
  - Sweatshirt – only a few XXX Size
  - Opportunity to sell merchandise at the Campground
- Swamp Barbecue signage
  - Paying \$50.00
  - Small advertisement \$25
- Grading the trail Jonesboro to East Machias
- Beaver problems
  - Two locations at risk
- Middle planks on bridges being replaced
- Franklin – Motor Vehicle hit the bridge at Card Crossing – damage the rail on one side
  - Seeking restitution
  - Contractor fixed it – will require the person pay it back to the contractor
- ATV Trail to Calais
  - ATV Club has a new slate of officers
  - Hoping that they will create a trail into downtown Calais
  - MaineDOT is not looking at reusing the rail bed at this time
- Discussion of places where land owners do not want ATV's that should have signs
- Kiosks
  - New one needed for Ellsworth – at a stand-still; trying to contract labor
  - Machias needs repairs

#### Fourth Annual All Night Relay

- July 21 - 22
- Lowered price to entice younger runners
- Tent – Wallace Tent \$480
- Working with Frost Septic
  - Motion to install a porta-potty and leave it there for the length of the contract
  - Seconded
  - Agreed – Ian is contacting Frost now to see if one is available (Ian confirmed and ordered.)
- Runners will begin leaving Friday afternoon and faster groups will leave later
- Lobster event will be Saturday in Eastport at the Seaview
- Seeking volunteers
  - Friday afternoon – volunteers
    -
  - Friday night
    - Charlie – ATV support
  - Lighting

- Inverter on a car battery
- Charlie's Generator
  - ... Will pick it up and return it
- Plug-in option Jim – talk to Tom Testa about running an extension cord for lighting
- The lights will be provided by the organizers

#### Membership report

- Received \$485 in contributions
- Styles ATV provided \$250 , the rest came from smaller contributions

#### ATV Raffle - Drawing in Mid-September

- Ticket sales have been slow – sold about 17 questions
- Charlie sold tickets at Cherryfield Days
- Will sell at Milbridge Days
- Blueberry festival might be possible
- Selling at “Elmers Country Store” in Four Corners
- People buy tickets at the last minute
- Need to sell 540 to break even
- Different members are distributing posters and tickets

#### Commendation of Ian Staub

- Thanks to Ian for all his effort

#### Future and purpose to the Sunrise Trail Coalition

- 2017 terms: John Marchese, Ian Staub, Leslie Harlow, Sandy Johnson, Gerry Nasberg
- 2018 terms: Bill Ceckler, Ray Arher, Charlie Harrington, Charlie Robinson, vacancy
- 2019 terms: Stephen Rees, Polly Ceckler, Andy Gallant, Carol Cuddy, Paul Markosian

#### Summary thoughts from Stephen

- Bicycle representatives are discouraged by the trail surface
- Multi-use has been successful
- Completed to Ellsworth, but not Calais
- Other related initiatives have moved ahead – Bold Coast Bikeway
- Should the trail coalition continue, dissolve, evolve?

#### Charlie

- Are we a necessity? If so, stay intact.
- We are not an ATV club.

- If we sponsored more events
  - Relay Race
  - Veterans walk
- The Coalition is stagnant
- Recognize that it isn't working for bicycles

Ian

- Leslie Harlow suggested that the coalition focus on advocacy for the trail and the users
- Ian feels that the coalition should be dissolve
- Use funds for permanent Privy(s)
- Turn maintenance and advocacy over to the trail groups
- Return unspent funds
- Without resurfacing the trail, bicycle interest will be very limited

Carol Cuddy

- Events are a lot of work – turnout has been poor
- Clubs or event organizers should do the events
- Advocacy not part of our skill set (not professional marketers)

Charlie Corliss

- Would hate to see this coalition dissolve
- Need the coalition to maintain focus on quality or the trail will collapse
- Charlie would not be replaced without a lot of advocacy in Augusta
- Coalition serves a good purpose
  - Raising funds – hire a grant writer
  - Porta-potties
  - A short segment of crushed concrete
  - Picnic shelters and other amenities
  - Would hate to see the coalition dissolve
- Need to move the meeting around to other locations
  - Machias – might attract new members
- Have five cameras on the trail for about two months
  - Probably have about 7,500 photos that need to be counted
- Trail isn't likely to reach Calais in the near term

Polly Ceckler

- Agree with much of Ian's concern
- Question: How will we fill the board? Need more enthusiasm
- It is an ATV Trail
- Need to find new members that are enthusiastic

## Jen Boothroyd

- It is common for a group that has met its initial goal to evolve
- A review of the mission statement, bylaws and other charter documents may help with evolution
- Don't think an advocacy group goal may be a natural direction – Friends of Sunrise Trail

## Crystal Hitchings

- Agree that the group should not dissolve
- Trail requires management, promotion and advocacy
- Might evolve to a friends of group, partners, etc.
- WCCOG Activities
  - DART has left DERCD and now works under WCCOG
  - Bicycling is a priority
  - HCPC is entering into an administrative contract
    - Jen will also be an administrator for DART
  - Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway
    - DEPHC – developed a better vision for their role in building bicycle culture
    - Training kids in bicycling, bike repair,
  - Department of Transportation and Bicycle Coalition of Maine
    - Want to increase more off-road opportunities – eg. Route 9, Route 6
    - Grand lake stream area is looking for biking on gravel roads (not single track)
    - Pave shoulders options are not sufficient
    - Want to improve some sections of the Sunrise Trail where they can substitute for building paved shoulders
  - Crystal will be more active with the board

## Jim Fisher –

- There are people interested in cycling the trail
- Think about priority locations for surface improvements
- Integrate our efforts with other tourism and trail initiatives
- Would be willing to work on funding if I am in the region with my next job

## Ian

- Surface is an issue

## Charlie

- Haven't seen any bicycles this summer
- Resurfacing the trail should be a mission
- Have to deal with some bad users

- Challenge of very large ATVs

#### Bill Ceckler

- The Trail as an ATV route needs to be maintained
- Surface improvements on the Sunrise Trail are key
- Need to get the ATV community / clubs to be more involved
- State will not fund Charlie Corliss position after he retires
  - Might be a retirement job or part time job
  - Someone has to pay attention
- Need to get more political support in Augusta – legislators
- Hate to see it dissolve

#### Stephen

- Early member of the Community Spokes
- Joined the board with an interest in promoting biking
- Brought other members on board
- Bike culture is limited – too much work for too few people
- Trail is not getting much recognition from BCM
- Bike riders ding the trail because of the surface
- Staying on the board – but not as President – hope new leadership will have a vision

#### Next steps

- August meeting – need to determine the size of the board going forward
  - Seven people have announced that they are stepping down
- Decide a future charter for the board