

Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting Minutes July 20, 2010, 4:00 P.M., Helen's Restaurant, Machias

Present: Jack Bookman, Katherine Cassidy, Bill Ceckler, Polly Ceckler, Bill Cherry, Stephanie Clement, Charlie Corliss, Betsy Dawson, Keith Fisher, Jim Fisher, Carolyn Gildart, Sally Jacobs, Jay Johnson, Sandy Johnson, Peter Knowles, Gail Peters, Stephen Rees, Kathleen Shannon

1. Introductions and welcome to newcomers, sign-in sheet

2. Polly moved and Sandy seconded the approval of June meeting minutes Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report—Dave Wood Same as last month

4. MDOT/MDOC updates - Charlie Corliss

- Trail safety and rescue question. Nothing changes, Franklin responsible for the same territory they have been in past.
- Bill Cherry described his traffic-calming method for intersections on the trail
 - . Speeds over 30 miles/hour create dust.
- Riverside Inn has narrowed the trail. It's ok.
- Charlie will work with Stephen Rees on Parking

Stephanie arrived to take the following notes:

Geo-tourism Interpretive Signage

Jim was talking about geocaching, and asked the board for potential things of interest along the trail.

- Katherine Cassidy mentioned a ghost at Catherine's Mountain.
- Charlie added that there is an arched granite box culvert in Township 7.
- Bill Cherry recommended that the Machias River log drive might be of interest.
- Bill also suggested the intersection with the old railroad that ran north/south in Whitneyville.
- Peter said that Ayers Junction also has a connection with President Roosevelt who stayed overnight before going to Campobello.

4. Update from Maine Department of Conservation (MDOC)

Charlie reported that the trail is closed this week where the washout occurred at the causeway. He said that work should be completed by Friday.

Charlie said that the contractors have crossed the Unionville Road in Steuben with surface materials. The contractors have crossed Mr. Henderson's property. Charlie said that work is going slowly, and the contractors have exhausted a local gravel pit. There is another crusher operating out of Franklin that should provide enough material

for 3-4 miles of trail. Charlie added that approximately 5 miles of material in Hancock is from crushed concrete extending the trail from Washington Junction. He said that all culverts should be installed by 7/30/10.

Bridge in Cherryfield needs about ½ decking and funnel. Chandler and Pleasant River bridges not finished. Boards at approaches needed to eliminate the gaps between trail and bridge. This is being done now.

Construction is continuing under the bond arrangements. Many of same people working.

Charlie reported that nothing has happened with the trail through Schoodic Bog. The contractors are wondering whether to build the trail over the existing rails or remove more of the rails. A decision will be made soon. Contractor wants to use different material on the build-up; he would like to use bigger rock so it would drain faster. DOC would want credit if they use bigger gravel size.

Charlie said Whitneyville to Ayers Junction is open but there is no new trail open. On July 28th there will be a meeting with the contractor. An inspection of the trail section from Cherryfield to Whitneyville will be conducted, and if it is acceptable, the trail will be open from Cherryfield east (approximately 24 new miles). Charlie said that ½ of the second layer of decking and a funnel need to be installed at one of the bridges in Cherryfield.

Charlie had no news to report on the kiosks. Charlie has been trying to contact the prison. The goal is to complete a kiosk at Ayers Junction after the one at Machias. Stephen has report on kiosks.

Charlie said that 500 of the 6" x 6", 50-gauge plastic Down East Sunrise Trail signs with logo and web site, have been ordered.

Charlie went to a Franklin Selectboard meeting, but Ian Staub was the only selectboard member present. Mr. Staub was concerned that the "Recreation Trail Crossing" signs were not placed far enough away from the trail at the intersection. Charlie pointed out that these were placed on the same signposts as the railroad crossing signs. He added that the speed limit is 35 mph in the area and that trail users are required to stop. Bad railroad ties being hauled to Juniper Ridge. Will be picked up soon. Cherryfield finished. Franklin starting today. Bundled ties will be out (1500 bundles) in the next month.). Old rail and steel are beginning to be moved from Franklin.

Bill asked about parking space in Franklin. Tax maps show room for 4-5 vehicles Ag Vest may own part. DOT records in Augusta (Nate Moulton) need to be researched.

Charlie said that he has been experimenting with dust control in Machias. He has converted an MDOT tanker and has spread one layer of liquid and flake calcium. He is testing different methods for applications. He said that the dust control generally lasts a season, but the second season may be longer. Charlie added that if people travel

under 30 mph, not as much dust is produced. Charlie has put up speed limit signs even though they are not enforceable. Calcium chloride treatment has been carried out on dike, behind Archibald's gas station along Route 1. Experimenting to see what works. \$1200/ mile if hired. \$300 if Charlie does it. Dust control has been appreciated. Charlie has gotten thanks. Builds up and lasts longer. Should last the season

Charlie reported that ATV's are using the Dunkin' Donuts lot and the Pellon Center. He said to keep them on the trail, they need to cross Route 1, go a few hundred feet, and then cross again. Charlie has recommended cheap snow fencing to help direct traffic at these locations. Charlie added that signage is needed to direct people to proper parking. Gail suggests maybe DOT road right-of-way could be used for ATV along Route. This would mean that ATV traffic would be going against road traffic. Not allowed.. Charlie and Bill Cherry are working on it.

Pellon parking lot rock-edging; Pellon does not object to parking in his lot but ATVs cut close to the building and are going through parking lot. He put out the rocks to deflect them. Maybe snowfence should be put up. Ugly.

We need to designate official parking.

Charlie agreed that port-a-toilets are needed, especially at Ayers Junction, Machias, and Cherryfield but there has been no further discussion. Machias has no public restrooms. The particular placement of the toilets needs to be discussed. Charlie will call for estimates. Archibald's has one. Should they be year round?

The trail brochures need to be updated. Charlie recommended putting a date on each of the brochure revisions so that people know how old the information is when looking at how much of the trail is open. The board decided that another 1,000 of the updated brochure would be a good idea, and Sally will approach Dan Stewart. The mileage will be changed and the East Coast Greenway logo, potential parking areas, and the anticipated date for completion (November 2010) will be added.

Charlie reported that there has been no further contact with Deirdre Fleming from the *Portland Press Herald*. Katherine spoke with Jeanne Curran from MDOC who had also not heard more from Ms. Fleming. Katherine added that she asked Jeanne about whether MDOC could develop a Facebook page for the trail, but they do not have the time. Jim offered to create a Facebook page for the trail.

5. Discussion of outreach methods to membership and public

- Sally contact Dan order 1000 maps, date, mileage in legend. Parking areas. Add East Coast Greenway. 57 miles open. Scheduled to be completed.
- Start with list. Peter do Membership. Excel. Move to Access later.. Need facebook and Constant Contact for newsletter.. Discussion ensued. Gail: split membership from treasurer.. Need to combine lists. Excel can't handle so much information. . Use Constant Contact to reach membership. Newsletters. In bullet form with links.

To DOC, DOT or other events.. Comes to you automatically. People can opt out. categorizes list into specific groups. Circumvents SPAM.

- Any word from Dierdre Fleming from the *Portland Press Herald* ? NO. Not DOC Jeanne Curran either.
- Katherine suggested Face-book page.
- Discussion on Constant Contact and Communications Committee Report. Peter will contact Constant Contact. Proceed to set up a six-month contract. Need a credit card.. Peter will be in charge.

Gail said that several members of the Board met to discuss the membership list and mailings. She said that all the e-mail and membership lists need to be collated. She said that the group sought advice from Bill Plasken (sp?) who indicated that Excel would work fine for the membership list as long as we don't collect too much information. Peter said that the membership list is in Excel at present, but may eventually be returned to Access if we need to collect more information or need a search function. Gail added that it is easy to import Excel data into Access.

Gail said that Constant Contact is easy. Jim agreed that it will be a good way to send out newsletters. Gail said that someone is needed to serve the function of "editor" - i.e. someone who collects and collates the information to go out on Constant Contact. The Constant Contact message can be bullets with links to the website for more information or a full story.

Sally asked about how to avoid being identified as Spam. Gail said that Constant Contact is set up to avoid this problem. The other advantage is that it gives the people receiving the e-mail the opportunity to change their status - to refuse future e-mails or to change their e-mail address. Kathleen recommended that as people send blurbs to the "editor" for the Constant Contact e-newsletter, they should either be in Word or formatted as .jpegs so they can easily be cut and pasted. Peter said that he would look into signing the Sunrise Trail Coalition up for Constant Contact and will consult with Dave Wood about the organization's credit card number.

Bill stated the goal is to get out the first e-correspondence by the end of the month. Bill and Charlie will send updates to Peter. Kathleen suggested that the first e-newsletter could announce the new format. She added that the price for Constant Contact will go up if we reach a larger threshold of members. Sally said that she still prefers the written newsletter, and the board agreed that several of these (perhaps 2/year) should be printed.

MOTION: To have Peter proceed with signing up the Sunrise Trail Coalition for Constant Contact for six months and to send out the first e-newsletter.

MADE BY: Sandy Johnson

SECOND: Polly Ceckler

VOTE: Unanimous in favor

6. Cherryfield Parking

Steve said that he canvassed business owners and met with the Town Clerk. Two businesses have authorized parking for the Down East Sunrise Trail. The first is Matthews Grocery, which is east of Milepost 30. at Rt 193. The owner is interested in having parking behind the Grocery. Has a parcel across the street. . Steve says help to reconfigure Mathews parking lot. Stephen will help in getting a road and intersection re-alignment Steve proposed that the Sunrise Trail Coalition put up signage with the number of spaces allowed for the trail.

The second business interested is the North St. Café. Now has a trail to trail. They would like to provide year-round parking that wouldn't affect other patrons. Steve said that when a trail opening is planned in Cherryfield, he would like to feature these two businesses. Charlie said that he can't commit to a specific time that the trail will be complete in Cherryfield, so it's too early to commit to a date for an event. Steve added that there may be several governmental properties available for parking, but they are off the trail. Steve said that the Sunrise Trail Coalition could do a presentation at the August selectboard meeting. Charlie thought that would be a good idea since many parking locations don't have enough room for trailers. He added there may be opportunities to work with volunteers to expand parking lots for the purposes of the trail. Bill Ceckler suggested a mini-opening in September in Cherryfield.

Offered publicity at our Trail celebration. Charlie wants to wait to decide on a date until trail is accessible . Clerk approaching selectmen about Dam Road, cable pool. Trailhead.. Need more than what the two businesses would want to allot. Maybe Snowmobile and ATV clubs help on parking lot construction. Center at Academy and Bandstand.

7. Signage Committee

Sally said that the basic policy has been worked out and will be presented to MDOC. A letter is needed from MDOC stating that the policy is acceptable so that signs can begin to be placed on the trail. Charlie researched prices and found that an 18" x 6" sign costs \$40 each or \$35 for two. The signs would be at the intersections and would include the name of a business, the directional arrow, and the mileage to the business.

8. WLBZ 2

Bill Cherry reported that Audrey from Channel 2, WLBZ, is doing a story on the Downeast Sunrise Trail that will be on their Tuesday segment, "places to see in Maine". Charlie, Skip Varney, and Bill met with her. They traveled from Machias to Whitneyville, and the camera person took lots of footage.

9. Miscellaneous

Charlie said that Arthur Tenan has cleared his lot for his business venture. He added that one will be able to get an ATV from the Academy in Cherryfield to the trail.

Kathleen reported that the question is still coming up about off-road vs. on-road motorcycles and what is allowed on the trail. Charlie said that if a motorcycle is

registered as an ATV then it can be used on a trail. Sally added that the registration forms are at town offices.

[Note from Stephanie: I found correspondence from Adam Paul of the Adventure Motorcyclists Coalition in an e-mail dated 10/13/2009 that states the following: the state of maine TTL 29 [states] a motorcycle that is registered as a motor vehicle cannot be double registered as an ATV....HOWEVER it also states in TTL 12, 13001 Section 3 that a TTL 29 motorcycle operated on an ATV trail or off road is an ATV by statute.

This is also highlighted in your [Maine DOC] agencies website at the following address, numbers 1,7,8: WWW.MAINE.GOV/DOC/PARKS/PROGRAMS/ATV/QUESTIONS.HTML

Further from Stephanie - I looked up the reference he mentions (<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/ATV/questions.html>) and found the following. It appears from #8 below that dual sport motorcycles are allowed even if not registered as an ATV:

Law Clarification

1. Are Off-Road motorcycles considered ATV? **Yes, under Maine Law they are considered an ATV and must be registered as one in order to ride off your own land.**
2. Is it true that I will lose my hunting, trapping, guiding, and fishing licenses for certain ATV violations? **Yes**
3. Who should landowner's call if they have a problem with an ATV on their property? **For issues in progress, call the nearest local enforcement agency.**
4. I am from another state and my ATV is registered there, so do I have to register it in Maine? **Yes, everyone is required to register his or her ATV to ride in Maine.**
5. Are you allowed to ride an ATV on a road right-of-way? **You can travel up to 500 yards to cross a road on the extreme right travel way. You can travel further on extreme right travel way if it is an authorized ATV access route.**
6. Can I register my jeep, dune buggy or pickup as an ATV? **No**
7. Do the ATV Laws apply to my dual sport motorcycle? **Yes, when used off road.**
8. Do I have to register my Dual Sport Motorcycle as an ATV? **There's nothing in Maine Law that requires someone to register their street registered motorcycle to go off street riding, however we encourage you to register as an ATV if you are going to ride on ATV funded trails to support the costs of maintaining these trails.**

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 17th at 4 p.m. at the Maine Grind Ellsworth.

**Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie M. Clement
Secretary**