

Sunrise Trail Coalition Annual Meeting

11:30 to 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, October 19, 2010
Cherryfield Academy in Cherryfield,
Route 193 just west of Route 1



Agenda

Introductions and welcome to newcomers, sign-in sheet

Sandy Johnson	
Jay Johnson	
Peter Knowles	
Skip Varney	Walter.E.Varney@maine.gov
Carol Cuddy	
Charles Corliss	
Bill Cherry	
Sally Jacobs	
Joan Wood	
Jim Fisher	
Jake Taylor	
Ian Straub	Ian.Staub@aol.com
Jacob Vande Sande	
Stephen and Linda Rees	
Pat Olsen	pat@olsenglobal.com
Norm Olsen	norm@olsenglobal.com
Gail Peters	Peters28@maineline.net
Bill Ceckler	
Steve Sloan	
Kyle Hildebrand	
Tim Tunney	
Bob DeForrest	ndeforrest@mcht.org
Linday Dailey	Lynda_barnes@hotmail.com
Bob and Candy Bachorik	bachorik@localnet.com
Chris Laughlin	machiastownmanager@myfairpoint.net

Approval of September 7th meeting minutes

- Copies of the minutes were handed out
- Acknowledgements and thank you notes were sent to the opening celebration sponsors
- Item six – Plans for annual meeting – change the date to the correct date
- The minutes were moved and passed without dissent

Treasurer's Report—Dave Wood

- Current balance is \$13,314.85
- Grants \$ 6,688.21
- General fund \$ 6,626.64
- Includes sponsorship funds
- Some funds will be paid out for hats
- Additional signs will be needed

Recent expenses

- Porta-potty at Washington Junction was rented for a month
 - We will leave it there for the next month.
- Some additional investigation is recommended to track which grants need to be spent completely and reported back to the granting organization.

Treasurers report was moved and passed without dissent.

Election of Board members

Nominating Committee Report: Bill Ceckler

Board members whose terms expire 2010: (three year terms)

- Bill Cherry
- Jacob Van de Sande
- Polly Ceckler
- Tim Tunney
- Kathleen Shannon

All will return to the board for another three year term.

New nominee for Board class of 2013:

- Steven Rees
- Peter Knowles

Motion to accept the slate

- Moved and passed without dissent.

Election of Officers:

Nominating Committee Report: Bill Ceckler

- President: Bill Ceckler
- Vice President: Stephen Rees
- Treasurer: David Wood
- Secretary: To be found
- Activity Liaison, Executive Committee Member: Sally Jacobs

Slate of Officers moved and passed without dissent.

NB: Jim Fisher and Barbara Maurer can provide some secretarial support in future meetings. In the meantime someone else may step up.

Introduction of special guests:

- Jake Taylor Ellsworth Snowmobile Club and Wallace Tent
- Norman Olsen, Biker, Resident of Cherryfield, Member of Cherryfield Friends of the Downeast Sunrise Trail
- Kelly Cochrane, Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce (not present)

MDOT/MDOC updates - Charlie Corliss and John Picher

A power point slide show was running in the background with pictures before, during and after construction.

Historical overview of the DEST construction project

Eight bidders with a range of -\$2,000,000 to +\$8,000,000
Contract was completed on time.

Numerous change orders were required, costing \$1,600,000

- Some sites are still problematic,
 - particularly a tidal area in Machias.
 - Beavers continue to be a challenge – particularly across Schoodic Bog
 - Construction across the bog retained tracks
- Bridges required more work, removing ties and replacing them with pressure treated timbers.
- 700' of paving in Machias was needed

Construction facts

- 76 road crossings
- Repaired >400 culverts
- More than 13,760 truckloads of fill
- All of the old ties are gone, but there are about 1,400 bundles of ties (20 ties per bundle) to be removed.
 - This task was subcontracted and re-subcontracted
 - Price of ties has risen from \$3.00 per tie to \$7.50 or more.
 - Removal is moving slowly
- Five or six gravel pits, required multiple crushers to produce acceptable surface
- Approximate cost \$65,000 per mile - \$5.5 million for the project
- Used liquid calcium to control dust
- One day – counted 30 turtles laying eggs

- Kiosks
 - One kiosk installed in Machias,
 - two more under construction for Ayers Junction and Washington Junction
 - Using jail labor when possible
- Dennysville ATV/Snowmobile club adopted a section of trail and set up trash receptacles
- Seeing a couple hundred ATV's per day
- Saw bears, moose, deer, eagles, osprey, ducks, turkeys and other wildlife during construction.
- Parking
 - Parking is chaotic in some areas with mostly trucks and trailers
 - Need to set up some sort of guidance for future parking
 - Need to be able to plow the parking in the winter

Things still to be done

- Signs
- Kiosks
- Parking

New trail problems

- Users have been pleased with curious behavior of ATVs
- Many of the early critics are less concerned and many are using the trail.
- Some abutting land owners have expressed concerned about noise
- Night use has raised concerns
 - ATV's need to reduce speed and noise
 - Cars and trucks have been going on at night and need to be stopped
 - May set up camera
- Dogs
 - Trail has not policy about dogs, but they need to be under control
 - Could we create a dog park along the trail? Probably would need to be town managed.
- Parking in Franklin
 - Would like to grade an area near the tracks
 - Many people are parking and taking their ATVs down Georges Pond Road
- Trail Maintenance
 - Need to have a plan next year for grading the trail to retain the crown
 - Grading will also require rolling to pack it down
 - Rock-raking might suffice in some sections
- Ruts in the trail
 - Most damage will occur by users during the mud season
 - Some of the ruts are easier for cyclists as they are smoother
 - No obvious damage on the trail now
 - Some ATV riders are riding in ditches
- What is the policy for hunting?
 - Hunting is allowed on the trail

- If the land owner owns land on both sides and has posted his land, then we will also post it at the boundaries of the property

Wayfinding: Maps and markers

- Need to get copies of the ECG maps
- Charlie is installing ECG trail markers

Presentation to Charlie Corliss

- Sally and Bill presented a coat rack to Charlie with tie nails and spikes
- Picture of the riders and Charlie on the trail



LUNCH

Old Business

- Sign Committee report—Steve Rees - Tabled
- Constant Contact - Peter Knowles - Tabled

- Web site - Tabled

New Business

- A) Trail extension from Washington Junction to Ellsworth
- message from Dan via Sally and
 - the extension from Ayers Junction to the Crossroad in Pembroke
- B) Bangor Hydro transmission project (Note: This discuss was far ranging, resulting in extending the meeting time and attrition in attendance.)
- Steve Sloan – new rules are requiring that Bangor Hydro provide 941 acres of wetland habitat to compensate for disruption by construction of the new transmission land.
 - Wetland area mitigation
 - Schoodic Bog mitigation
 - Compensation for use of the trail for management of the transmission line
 - Working with the major land conservation organizations for the last years
 - MCHT, FBC, Downeast Salmon Federation, DOC, Down East Coastal Conservancy (possible)
 - Mitigation lands – Bob DeForrest
 - Bangor Hydro has proposed a package to DEP and Army Corpse for 941 acres
 - Two parcels identified as priority protection areas
 - West Bay Pond Area – Gouldsboro
 - south of the trail (FBC, MCHT)
 - 400 – 500 acres
 - Guzzle Road – close to the Grange Hall
 - May be linked to the Sunrise Trail
 - Land trusts are going to manage this one, but we might work with them for educational access
 - Route 9 – Narragaugus River watershed (DESF)
 - Not close to DEST
 - Bangor Hydro has also acquired a number of properties along the route
 - These parcels are mostly along the corridor and some abut the trail
 - DOC has been looking at these parcels
 - Would STC be interested in partnering with Bangor Hydro for management of these properties
 - Land would be donated
 - DEP and ACE would require long term management
 - Protection zone resources would need to be under protection – particularly vernal pools and wading bird habitat
 - Upland areas may be available for other uses – e.g. ecological education accessed by a side trail
 - Aspen Wall – Fletchers Landing (FBC)
 - Mill Stream, Franklin
 - Possible picnic area at brook crossing

- Mostly wet, with a thin strip of upland that might be usable
 - No connection with a road
- Rock of Ages, Franklin - FBC
 - Overlooks trail across Route 200
 - Not connected with trail
- Ward Property – Franklin – mile marker 9
 - 10 acres of forested wetlands and uplands
 - Abuts trail just north of Route 182
 - Access only by trail
 - Might be suitable for primitive camping
 - Discussion about management of campsites
 - Town might be interested in this property
- Manning property – Sullivan – FBC is looking at this lot
 - Close to intersection of Route 183 and DEST
 - 17 Acres on road and 20 Acres on backside
 - Most of the land is upland
- Gay/Frost/Berzins property – Milbridge/Cherryfield town line
- Sclar Property – Harrington / Columbia Town Line
 - 13 acres, mile marker 37 1/2
 - Adjacent to the trail
 - Most of the land is upland

ACTION: Sally moves that “The STC endorses the idea of conserving lands and that the president shall appoint a committee under Steve Reese to cooperate with the Bangor Hydro Electric and the land trusts on identifying future values of these properties.”

Motion moved and seconded. Passed without dissent.

- C) Friend and Friend fund raiser for Trail – presented by Kyle Hildebrand
- Customers are happy to have access to the trail
 - Organizing a November 14 Charity Ride
 - 10:00 AM departure
 - Washington Junction to Cable Pool
 - Friend and Friend would organize a barbeque
 - Wallace tent might donate grills
 - STC would help to publicize the event
 - Charge \$10 for riders and \$5 for riders
 - Funds for privies
 - How would we manage registration
 - Estimate 75 to 100 ATVs

ACTION: STC has agreed to provide volunteers and promotion for this event

D) Help Maine Warden Service - Joe McBrine with purchase of side by side ATV for Trail use

- STC might act as a non-profit pass through organization for contributions
- DEST will accept contributions for the Wardens Service –
 - Moved and passed without dissent
 - Bill Ceckler suggests that we might match contributions with \$1,000
 - Sally suggests that we contribute the funds from the ride
 - Gail moved that STC matches up to \$1,000 or a total of \$2,000 coming in from the trail ride for this purpose. Gail withdrew her motion.

ACTION: The question of the level of contribution for the ATV will be taken up at the next STC meeting. All agreed that some contribution was in order, but the amount will be determined in part by the funds raised at the November 14 trail ride event.

E) New Projects and directions for the Coalition

- Out Houses, Where for a start? Trial period? Application for construction grants ?
How to finance maintenance?
 - Wallace tent owner is a dealer of Porta Potties
 - Wallace does not service them
 - Rays charges \$45 per pump out
 - Would need to have someone clean the porta-potty
 - Charlie is receiving a lot of requests about facilities
 - Ayres Junction – light use on weekdays
 - Machias – currently people are going to the restaurants
 - Cherryfield – has a Porta-Potty on Main Street, but Matthews Store would be closer
 - Franklin – currently using the trading post
 - Washington Junction – currently has one that we are renting (paying about \$110.00 per month rental and service)
 - Trail group might approach the towns for financial support
- Picnic tables and benches along the trail. Picking the spots; design; construction of tables, benches and the areas to accommodate them.
 - Might fit with Bangor Hydro transmission line proposal
- Some New Grand plans:
 - Washington Junction to Ellsworth
 - Dan Stewart plans to launch an engineering study this fall
 - Schoodic to Schoodic trail
 - Dennis Damon's "Grand Circle Tour"- DEST trailhead in Ellsworth around Schoodic Point, and boat from Winter Harbor to Bar Harbor and back to Ellsworth via ? Route 3?
 - A multi-use trail from Ayres Junction to Eastport
 - A multi-use trail from Ayres Junction to Calais

Meeting Schedule

- November 16th 4:00 PM Maine Grind, Ellsworth
- December 14th 4:00 PM week Helens, Machias
- January 18th The Maine Grind, Ellsworth

Sally moved that DEST join the Ellsworth and Machias Chambers of Commerce

- Non-profit membership fee is approximately \$25
- Approved without dissent

Adjourn 3:30 PM

Ride on the Trail

