

## Sunrise Trail Coalition Regular Meeting and Annual Meeting,

Wednesday, October 24, 2007, Cherryfield Academy, Cherryfield, Maine

**PRESENT:** Scott Ramsay, Dan Stewart, David Rodrigues, Kathleen Shannon, John Picher, Bob Bachorik, Candy Bachorik, Ashley Bladen, Michael Shook, Gail Peters, Stephanie Clement, Eleody Libby, Polly Ceckler, Sandy Johnson, Jay Johnson, Maggie Warren, Jim Fisher, Charlie Corliss, Jacob van de Sande, Dave Wood, Julie Isbill, Sally Jacobs, Bill Ceckler, Fred Marshall, David Whitney

1. Introductions
2. Approval of September meeting minutes: Motion by Bill, seconded by Sandy, **unanimous approval of the Minutes of the 9/25 meeting.**
3. **Charlie Corliss, Dan Stewart, David Rodrigues** updates  
Charlie gave a brief PowerPoint presentation about the number of bridges, water crossings, worst sites, and wildlife on the trail. This will be inspection information for 2007—a benchmark. Charlie's photographs were fantastic.

**Dan Stewart:** Intention of DOT for Ayers Jct. to Calais is to keep rail there in case rail service comes back to Eastport. Snowmobilers prefer that trail goes to Charlotte to hook up with their trails. Rail with trail would be expensive but a solution worth investigating. Questions of who that would benefit? Purpose? Would Calais support this? Dan is willing to put together a proposal and **present to legislature if Charlie could get ATV and snowmobile people organized to make a petition to the state.** Dan suggested that they make a map, outline benefits, and create a 1- or 2-page proposal. In Charlotte, trail would hook into ME bike tours. Charlie is working with Robbinston ATV club and is going to a meeting tonight and will discuss this with them.

DOC is in discussions about **what to do at Washington Junction.** Rail Dept. leased rails ¼ mile east of Wash. Jct to rail service for turn-around. Discussed need for plan on how to get the trail along with the rail for this distance. Decision is a challenge for the trail. Railroad company has agreed to release 2200' from the original lease. Scenic RR does not want us to cross double tracks, contends it is not safe to cross active line. Preferred route from RR perspective is to have rail with trail going east from the junction, then a crossing after active line. Washington Junction Landowner would be willing to grant an easement across his property. Would cost \$30K to build this one quarter-mile section. Excursion folks will have to spend \$\$ to improve tracks in Wash. Jct. How to go from there to Ellsworth? Will need 6' chainlink fence if trail is within 15 feet of tracks—would need all the way to Ellsworth. This would be necessary for liability issues.

**Bill Ceckler** will speak with the Crobb Box owners about possibly clearing right-of-way

**John Picher:** Working on engineering contract, working with Fred Marshall (Plymouth Engineering) and Scott Ramsay (MaineDOC). Met last week to talk about progress. Talked about putting out RFP as demolition, salvage and construction, either one contract or two. DOC would prefer that it be one contract. This may delay start because of design work; hope to get bids out by Jan. 1st. Joel Butler has asked for a bid package; he's a local contractor. John P. says a larger contractor like Cianbro could get a low bid by getting a Maine salvage company or other subcontractors working for them. DOC needs control of final product. They don't want to get in the middle of other details.

**Scott** wants to begin construction by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Estimated 8-month project for 87 miles. Hopes for ribbon-cutting in December 2008.

**Fred Marshall, Plymouth Engineering:** They're reasonably confident that they will meet January deadline for bid. Charlie will be day-to-day person to oversee the work. Also someone from Plymouth for one day per week will supervise. With good contracts, this kind of supervising may not be necessary. They have not done a rail salvage project before.

**Boxcar Committee Report:** **Charlie** reported that they haven't done much yet. Charlie has been trying to coordinate county jail to get prisoners to power-wash the inside. This isn't working out, so we will hire someone to do it, then get inmates to sand down walls, keep it as historical as possible, with some small floor repairs around the door. **We will ask Machias Selectmen to vote approval on project at their meeting tonight.** We are planning an ADA ramp from platform of Station 98 and false walls and a couple of windows, all to match style of Station 98. Kathleen Shannon says selectmen are not crazy about the false door and windows idea. We need to have an alternative, just in case. Julie Isbill thanked all the local people who have made this happen. It was her vision a year ago—"keep the momentum going," encouraged Julie, who got us \$7,500 in grants to make it happen. **Thanks to Julie and Kathleen Shannon, for all their help.** Kathleen points out there is no existing platform. DOT may be interested in a downeast rest stop **Selectmen have voted not to have 24/7 access to inside of Station 98 and boxcar.** Selectmen say people can go to Irving station, and outside restroom doesn't fit with the historic preservation idea. Outside signage on boxcar nearly completed. Discussion of parking. Town owns boxcar and railroad building, not land underneath. Move boxcar so it's not behind Depot

but next to it. . **Betsy, Town Manager, is going to take care of moving the boxcar to its final resting place.**

**Sally** is interested in a cooperative effort among town, STC and Chamber of Commerce.

**Trail Head-- Dave Rodrigues says Machias is a hub for ATVs and snowmobiles** because one trail connects to two trails and there are services. ATV parking is likely to increase and it's important to find more parking facilities. Scott says forget getting money from state—too much competition. Town and ATV club working together would be ideal. **Sally, David, Charlie, ATV clubs can get together and talk about parking.** Determine where parking is going to be. How much is available in the right of way? **Charlie will have the right –of –way measured and marked by the next meeting** so we know how much we own. Scott emphasizes that we should concentrate on building the trail and not be side-tracked by other trail issues. We may build things in the wrong places. **Dan reminded us** that when DOT went to public hearings and to the legislature, **Dan told them we would plan parking as part of the trail.**

## Old Business

1. Boxcar project year-end report: See above.
2. Maps and Map Committee Report

**Tora sent maps with CDs and info that her students collected.** If there are comments, write down things for her. **We hope to have this as a main agenda item in the future.**

**Jim Fisher, HCPC received \$17K as Byways grant.** He wants to use 8 ½ x 11 interpretive signs in different locations to point out history, glacial striations, architectural details for geocaching trail—[www.geocache.org](http://www.geocache.org) is web site Sally encouraged people to **contact Jim with ideas.**

**STAR Report from Bill Ceckler-** Tracy Perez has put a feasibility study into the MaineDOT budget. HCPC may subcontract out this work. Jim will write scope of work and send out to board members. Funding became available October 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. Spring Business Conference Reports  
SAVE THE DATE. April 2, 2008, at UMM. Morning panelists—what trails have done in their areas. Chance for people to talk directly with them.  
Afternoon: 2 tracks: how to develop businesses on trails and how trail can help businesses. Bankers, Economic development, and financial people.

## Annual Meeting

1. Treasurer's Report: **See attached. \$6,268 total. Kodak funding has been exhausted. 50 or so newsletters were returned. Agreed to send letter with form to members only, asking them to renew for 2008.** Membership is for a calendar year. Moved by Bill, seconded by Sandy, all in favor of accepting Treasurer's Report.
2. Election of Board and Officers. See above.

*3-year members.*

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

*2-year members:*

Sally Jacobs  
Bill Ceckler  
Eleody Libby  
Stephanie Clement  
David Whitney

*1-year members:*

Maggie Warren  
Sandra Johnson  
Carol Cuddy  
Jeff Fitzgerald  
Michael Shock

**Bill asked for a motion that secretary cast one slate. Jay Johnson moved, Jim Fisher seconded, and the motion passed.**

**Bill C will send this list to Jim so he can put it on the web site.**

**Officers elected:**

**Sally Jacobs, President for one more year.**  
**Bill Ceckler, Vice President.**  
**Maggie Warren, Secretary.**  
**Eleody Libby, Treasurer.**

Sally will give Jim Fisher a cover letter; he will send out postcards asking people to renew their membership.

3. Recognition of “turning the page”

Charlie has copies of all Minutes to keep in the office.

*Award to Julie Isbill:*

Sally went over a list of things Julie asked us to do when she first began advising our group. Sally checked them all off. “This is lightning speed,” says Sally.

Bill Ceckler proposed a resolution for Julie Isbill: Thank you for your invaluable assistance in the development of the Sunrise Trail Coalition. National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program. Mentor, facilitator, friend

Bill presented Julie with a gift that included a piece of railroad tie and some nails and a gold railroad spike with boxcar decoration. Maggie presented Julie with a DeLorme atlas so she will never get lost in Maine. Julie honored Sally Jacobs with a CONSERVATION HERO award.

4. Maggie showed a slide show of Julie Isbill’s photographs from the last couple of years.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF INFORMATION

1. November 28 meeting of East Coast Greenway reps and Don Spranger’s Washington Academy student video. Discuss signage for trail. Bring ideas or send them via others.

Adjourn to barbecue/potluck lunch

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Warren