

**Sunrise Trail Coalition  
Annual Meeting  
Ellsworth City Hall  
12/3/12**

**Minutes**

**Opening Remarks:** President Steve Rees

**Sally Jacobs Life Celebration**

East Coast Greenway Alliance Award Presentation by Tony Barrett



Tony Barrett Retrospective: Sally's persuasive arguments eventually convinced all that the rails would be removed and a Trail established for multi-use and for this achievement she received many awards.

- Calais Event
- 2010 Trail Opening
- State Governors Leadership Award and other awards
- Riding on an ATV- Sally was a bridge between bikes and ATVs

A handmade East Coast Greenway tile was presented to Sally's Daughters, Stephanie Lull and Jennifer Leech.

**Preview of President's Report**

Steve Rees discussed his role following the lead of Sally, Coalition founder and first President, Bill Ceckler, past President, Tony and others who have served on the Board, to sustain the Coalition and to promote Trail use by all users.

Steve Rees noted the importance of the inclusion of the Sunrise Trail into the East Coast Greenway:

- bringing the Sunrise Trail into the 2500 mile East Coast Greenway as most northerly segment
- longest segment to date
- multi use segment with motorized transportation was unusual

New Board brings new skills and experience to broaden the Coalition Board

Gave thanks to Dan Stewart for working through MaineDOT to assist the Coalition

- An anchor and ally at MaineDOT
- Thanks for being available to attend Coalition meetings

### **Remarks by Bill Ceckler**

- recalled working with Sally on creating the Trail
- had some very challenging meetings with Railroad advocates
- John Melrose gave 10 miles of Trail east of Machias
- went on the road to speak with leaders in other Departments and local political leaders (including Dennis Damon)
- Transportation Committee voted 11-1 supporting the Trail
- September 2011 Trail inauguration - David Cole attended to celebrate with Coalition and public

### **Dan Stewart - MaineDOT Update**

- Rails with trails (normally MaineDOT will not remove rails)
- didn't think this would ever happen
- MaineDOT worked with Sunrise Trail Coalition to develop a management plan with DOC
- sought legislative support
- value of the steel was sufficient to pay for Trail rehabilitation
- Now working on completing the Trail into Ellsworth
- Sally simultaneously advocated for the Orono - Old Town trail
- now need to complete this Trail
  - this section will be more challenging
  - design and permitting - about to put someone under contract - start design this Winter
  - hope to be ready to build in the Fall and be open in 2014
- Departments of Conservation and Transportation are open to the idea of dedicating a section of trail or a bridge to Sally - following the advice of the Sunrise Trail Coalition.

### **Sally's Daughters' remarks**

- Sally's Daughters each expressed their thanks
- They requested that the ECG tile award be hung in Charlie Corliss' Office in Cherryfield
- Discussed possible event - a seasonal race series that uses the Trail
  - o each event would start on different sections of the Trail
  - o North Carolina friends have raised money for this event
  - o will be meeting in Augusta in January to discuss future events

### **Business Meeting**

#### **Introductions**

Audience

Board

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Steve Rees, President | - Carol Cuddy                    |
| - Ian Staub, Treasurer  | - Steve Salisbury                |
| - Bill Ceckler          | - Arthur Tenan                   |
| - Sandy Johnson         | - Jim Fisher, Secretary          |
| - Polly Ceckler         | - Charlie Corliss, Trail Manager |
| - Dave Wood             |                                  |

### **Approval of Prior Minutes**

- 2011 Annual Members' Meeting and October 2012 Board Meeting
- Correction to the Meeting Agenda - Jefferson Jacobs is Sally's son
- Correction to the October 2012 Board Meeting Minutes - change Bill Whitney to David Whitney
- accepted as revised
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### **President's Report (attached below)**

- Steve Rees referred to significant Trail improvements made; adoption of new Membership Classes and Rates; work in progress for a digital Trail Guide; addition to Website of Trail User Survey; Coalition support and participation in local events and regional economic development planning.
- **Steve Rees read the Coalition Mission Statement to remind the Board that its role is to promote outdoor recreation, health and fitness and economic development in Washington and Hancock Counties through education and the development of the four season multi-use Trail.**

### **Treasurer's report - Ian Staub**

- Ian presented 2012 Operating Budget details for Income and Expenses
  - o Revenue shortfall of -\$1,713.08
  - o Expenses exceeded Budget - \$931.08
  - o Net Loss -\$2,664.85
- Ian next reviewed adopted 2013 Budget; noted projected Loss unless Revenues are increased
  - o General Fund balance \$2,178.61
  - o Grant Fund balance \$5,643.27
- Ian noted that 2012 picnic tables project expenses may be reimbursable from RTC Funds grant
- These figures do not include the \$5,000 grant recently received for conduct of a Trail User Survey in 2013.
- Ian reviewed Board's efforts to reduce 2013 Expenses wherever possible
- Removed the privies - to reduce expenses
- - will work collaborating with Heritage Rail for a privy at Washington Junction next spring
- Dan Stewart noted that DOT and DOC are collaborating to pay for Trail maintenance

### **Manager's Report - Charlie Corliss**

- remarks on Sally - met her years ago when working for LURC
- she helped to create his job
- summarized typical maintenance issues after Summer season and approaching Winter
- Beavers have been less of a problem now that the water is freezing
- plugged culverts and required an excavator to clear them
- Wet fall- side of the Trail sloughed away

- 9 mile extension from Ayers Junction
- purchased chain link fence, bridge planks, etc.
- Dennysville Club is working on the bridges now, weather permitting
  
- 4 clubs are proposing to groom the Trail
- - submitted a municipal grant through the town of Mathias for grooming
- - Narraguagus Club is going to try to handle the western 45 miles
- 
- Grading will be carried out in the Spring

### **Questions**

- Who is plowing the parking areas?
  - o Washington Junction - by the resident there
  - o Snowmobile clubs do some
  - o Charlie plows some of them
  - o Franklin - may not be plowed since the blueberry factory closed
  
- Is it possible to groom a ski track?
  - There is not enough room in many sections
  
- Other sign locations needed?
  - High Street - Ellsworth
  - Route 1 - direction to Ayers Junction
  - Signs to all of the parking areas along the Trail
  - Dan Stewart offered that MaineDOT can install additional directional signage to Trail heads.
  - Charlie will work with Jim and Steve to create a map with proposed signage locations.

### **Election of the Board of Directors**

- Steve Rees introduced the five Nominees
- Jim Fisher reported Web Proxy votes were received with - 16 votes for the slate
- One request was made for greater representation of women
- Steve Rees called for any more nominations from the floor and none were made
- Steve Rees requested any other ballots from Members be now delivered; a few were delivered
- Jim Fisher moved unanimous consent of the slate
- Approved by the Members
- Steve Rees invited the new Board members to come forward to join the Board
- Dan Stewart offered to print another 2,000 MaineDOT brochures
  - Dan suggested that we include a small Membership form on the brochure
  - He will see if the graphic artists at MaineDOT can accomplish this
  - Jim will speak with Dan about this on Friday in Augusta

**Annual meeting ended approximately 4:45 P.M.**

**A short Organizational Board meeting for the new Board then opened:**

Steve Rees moved that Kathy Howell, Executive Director of the Mathias Chamber of Commerce join the Board to fill the remainder of Peter Knowles term ( 1 Year)2013

Steve described Kathy's marketing experience and involvement in Machias area events

- Board approved without dissent
- Steve invited Kathy to come forward to join the Board

**Election of Officers** - the following slate was approved by the Board:

- President - Stephen Rees
- Vice President - Tabled to January 2013 Board meeting
- Secretary - Jim Fisher
- Treasurer- Ian Staub
- Steve discussed Committee assignments also were deferred to January 2013 Board meeting
- January 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 -Strategic Planning Board meeting at HCPC - needs to be rescheduled due to conflict with announced meeting same day to further discuss memoriam for Sally by other groups and friends
- January 28th 2:00 at HCPC was selected

**Organizational Meeting ended approximately 5:05 P.M.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 12/03/2012 ANNUAL MEETING**

To: Board of Directors, Members and Guests Sunrise Trail Coalition, Inc.

From: Stephen D. Rees, Sr., President

### **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING 2012**

PROMOTING COALITION PURPOSE: To Promote Outdoor Recreation, Health and Fitness and Economic Development In Hancock and Washington Counties ... through Education and the Development of an Integrated On-and-Off-Road Four-Season, Shared-Use Trail System.

#### **TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES**

- Installation of Permanent Information Kiosks at Washington & Ayers Junctions and in Machias.
- Placement of Temporary Information Kiosks at Route 183, Cherryfield & Colombia Falls.
- Placement of 18 picnic tables at selected accessible & scenic view locations.
- Installation of mileage distance and Town & Twp. line information signs.
- Financing assistance to Dennysville Snowmobile & ATV Club's construction of 9 mile extension from Ayers Inc. Easterly to US1 Perry.

#### **BANGOR HYDRO DOWNEAST RELIABILITY PROJECT**

- Completion Construction Phase and restoration affected Trail Areas.
- Conveyance to State Acreage for Future Route 183 and US1(Cherryfield) Sites for parking of vehicles & trailers, picnic and camping and toilet facilities.
- Execution of License Agreement with State for long term access to its facilities for maintenance and liability for repairs to impacted Trail areas.

#### **BOARD'S APPROVAL NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES & RATES**

- Create new Classes for Individuals and Businesses and new Rates for each Class.
- Adopt new Membership Application Form.
- Update Coalition Website, [www.sunrisetrail.org](http://www.sunrisetrail.org).

#### **PUBLISH & DISTRIBUTE DOWNEAST SUNRISE TRAIL NEWS(May, 2012)**

- PUBLISHED ARTICLES: Maine Sunday Telegram & Activities Guide of Maine
- I provided information for inclusion in each publication.

#### **DOWNEAST SUNRISE TRAIL SECTION MAPPING: DIGITAL DOWNLOAD**

- Coordinate with Maine Dept. Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Div. Parks & Lands, Interpretative Specialist, Jocelyn Hubbell in design, format and content.
- 3 Sections: Washington Inc. To Cherryfield; Cherryfield to Machias; Machias to Ayers Inc.
- Provide Trail location, parking & picnic sites, trail section length, points of interest & side trips.
- Section Map show other intersecting Trails(ATV, Snowmobile, Ice Age, Fisheries, Scenic Byways).

## **TRAIL USER SURVEY**

- Hancock Planner and Webmaster, Jim Fisher, created initial form for a User Survey for Website.
- Hancock Planner, Jim Fisher, conducted weekend day informal survey of Trail users and published results for Board discussion.
- Coalition applied for funding from and received from Davis Conservation Foundation funds to conduct more formal survey in 2013.

## **DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY TWO RIVERS PROJECT CAMPAIGN**

- Vice-Pres., Bill Cherry, attended March 27 Kickoff meeting in Machias representing Coalition and continues as our liaison to Project(lands adjoin Trail and offer additional recreational opportunities to Trail users).

## **SEMI-ANNUAL EAST COAST GREENWAY ALLIANCE TRAIL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- I attended with Board member, Dave Wood and Trail Manager, Charlie Corliss, Portland May 18.
- We manned display Booth during day to distribute Trail Brochures, sell merchandise, address questions.
- I made a presentation to the Trail Council about the multi-use Sunrise Trail and users' experiences
- I attended the Fall Trail Council meeting in Richmond, VA on Saturday, November 17 at which I had the honor to address the Council and public attendees to the life and accomplishments of our Trail Founder and first President, Sally Jacobs. On Sunday, November 18, I attended the Board of Trustees' meeting.

## **CHERRYFIELD DAYS JUNE 23**

- Trail Manager, Charlie Corliss, manned a display table during Event to distribute Trail Brochures, sell merchandise, address questions.

## **DESTINATION CHERRYFIELD CELEBRATION July 21**

- I and Treasurer, Ian Staub, manned an information table set up at roadside entrance to Lois' Diner along Main Street and Trail Manager, Charlie Corliss, and his wife manned an information table at the Cherryfield Trailhead. Both tables displayed merchandise for sale and Trail maps. We were later joined by Jim Fisher and his wife who stayed the last hour. Both tables ceased displays after 1 PM.

## **BOLD COAST SCENIC BYWAYS**

- I attended the June 12 Kick-off Meeting in Machias at UMM representing the Trail and the Coalition. I became a member of the Corridor Advocacy Group which met in Machias on September 26 to draft Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Goals.
- The drafts were subsequently discussed by the Regional Groups at meetings which I attended held consecutive evenings in Machias August 7, in Whiting on August 8 and in Cherryfield on August 9.
- I participated in the September 26 Corridor Advocacy Group evening meeting held in Machias.

- I participated in the 2 day bus tour of the Communities along the Byway on October 23 & 24.
- I participated in the November 28 Corridor Advocacy Group meeting held in Machias

### **MOBILIZE MAINE GROWASHINGTON/AROOSTOOK**

- I attended the June 28 Kick-off Meeting in Machias at UMM representing the Trail and the Coalition. I became a member of the Leadership Team and Goal Setting Action Committee.
- I attended a combined first meeting held August 1 in Machias.
- I participated in separate subsequent Goal Setting Committee meetings through GoToMtg.com held August 7, August 13, August 21 and August 27.
- I attended in Calais at Washington County Community College the Mobilize Maine Discovery Meeting held September 19 which informed the public of what the Committees and Team had been doing and what future public involvement could occur working on various committees.
- I attended the Leadership Team meeting held November 14 in Machias.
- I attended the scheduled citizen participation Asset Mapping sessions held in Milbridge November 15 and in Machias November 27.

### **DART/MAINE OFFICE OF TOURISM WORKSOP**

- I attended the September 18 afternoon workshop in Ellsworth by DART and Maine Office of Tourism presenting to area tourism related businesses and organizations like Chambers of Commerce and non-profits like our Coalition information about what and how they are attempting to attract new and repeat tourists to Downeast and Acadia.

### **DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS: TERMS EXPIRING 2012**

- On behalf of the remaining members of the Board and our Coalition Members, we extend our thanks to Bill Ceckler, Past President, David Whitney and Eleody Libby for their contributions and service as Board members, Officers and/or Committee Chairs.

### **NOMINEES TO BOARD: 3 YEAR TERMS EXPIRING 2015**

- On behalf of the remaining members of the Board and our Coalition Members, we thank Bill Ceckler for committing to another 3 year term on the Board and welcome and thank our Nominees for their willingness to serve on the Board: Charlie Harrington, Charlie Robinson, Ray Archer and Arthur Tenan.

### **OFFICERS: EXPIRING 1 YEAR TERMS**

- I wish to acknowledge the services of Vice-President, Bill Cherry, Treasurer, Ian Staub, and Webmaster extraordinaire, Jim Fisher, during this year in supporting the Board and me in our collective efforts.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

- I wish to thank Maggie Warren and Dave Wood for their herculean efforts to organize our Membership records.

**OUR MEMBERS**

- The Board thanks our current Members for their financial support and extends to them our wishes for Happy Holidays this Season.

**DEPTS. OF TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION and FORESTRY**

- The Board thanks the continuing support of Dan Stewart, Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Small Harbor Improvement Programs Manager, Bureau of Transportation Systems Planning, Office of Multimodal Statewide Planning, MDOT; Jocelyn Hubbell, Interpretative Specialist, Division of Parks and Public Lands, MDACF; and our hard working Trail Manager, Charlie Corliss.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen D. Rees, Sr.