

**Calais Branch Trail Meeting**  
**University of Maine Machias**  
**08/23/05**

**Attending:** John Balicki, David Cole, Bud Finch, David Rodrigues, Maggie Warren, Julie Isbill, Ron Roy, John Titus, Tom Testa, Skip Rogers, Katherine Cassidy, Dianne Tilton, Wayde Carter, Bill Clark, John DeLeo, Peggy Duval, Bill Ceckler, Polly Ceckler, Steve Walton, Bill Cherry, Jim Fisher, Charlie Corliss, Gary Darling, John Ashmore, Eddie Dugay, Adam Meyer, Dan Stewart, Stephanie Clement, Sally Jacobs, Judy East, Barbara Drisko, Michele Gagnon, Yogi Jones, Ed Pellon

**Opening remarks: David Cole**

- Challenges ahead
  - Funding - at least \$6 million
  - Standards
  - Sustainability
- Future rail use - priority
- Note: Need a digital coverage for the trail
- Shared use concept - ATV Exception
- Plan will be essential for phasing in the trail
- Not a study - need to prepare a plan. The transportation committee is anticipating a plan.

**Questions**

- Is there a legal process to tie salvage to paying for the project?  
Assume that this will be the case. Should not require legislative action. Prices of scrap fluctuate.
- Would it not be in the best interest to pull them up now while the price is high?  
Need to have the plan and recommendations first. Can move quickly after that. As soon as they are up, people will start driving on the embankment
- (Steve Walton) Towns were asked to sign letters of support to what end?  
To show a level of support for the conversion.
- (Sally Jacob) Is there a legal way to invest some money for rails into an endowment for maintenance?  
Probably these funds would probably be spent in the construction. This group can look at alternatives for sustaining maintenance. Can look at how other places pay for management.
- (Bill Ceckler) Steps toward shared use?  
Need a mechanism to assess the process of shared use and whether conflicts arise. Need to work with FHWA on evaluation. Department gets about \$7 million per biennium for TEA. Might be able to get an earmark.

- (Eddie Dugay) Do we have to use enhancement funding? If we use state or local funds, or earmarks we have more flexibility for shared use.  
There is some risk if federal TEA funds are used that they will take away ATV access. We can seek other funds if the TEA program looks to restrictive. May fund sections differently.
- (Sally Jacobs) Can other rail corridor maintenance funds be used here?  
Ron - funds are raised through rail excise tax. Rail providers expect the funds to be used on their tracks.

### **Subcommittee assignments - John Balicki**

- Contact list with Committee Assignments
- Like to wrap this up by Thanksgiving
- Final half hour - we can identify overlap and gaps
- Next meeting - September 8 in Machias (after that we can look at other locations) - need
- Communication via email

### **Committees**

#### **Principle questions**

##### 1. Shape of the umbrella organization

Role of the state - maintaining the umbrella -eg public lands

Responsibility and authority of towns

Involvement of clubs and voluntary organizations

##### 2. Assurances to promote this trail?

Getting answers to FAQs

Legal questions

Liability

Deeds and land ownership

Environmental

Design

Maintenance

Management

### **Wrap Up**

### **Management - Rules and enforcement**

- Where is the endpoint?
- ATV Exception? need to look at the document, understand the rules
- Abutters - communicate, satisfy needs
- Emergency response - Use of ATVs and Snowmobiles
- Speed limits
- Rules versus laws - how are rules created and enforced

### **Maintenance**

- Where is the money coming from
  - endowment?
- Who will be doing the maintenance
- Need to know which towns have resources for maintenance
  - going to send a letter to the towns and counties to see what they can put in
  - send similar letter to clubs
  - Should work with the governance and outreach committee

### **Design**

- How to design and build a facility that is suitable for future rail use and is adequate for trail use
- Wise use of public funds
- Signage
  - Rules and safety - standards exist
  - Trail markers
  - Public information - what is this? who can you contact?
  - Interpretative signage
- Facilities - restrooms, parking etc.

### **Governance**

- What is the shape of the umbrella organizations
  - state
  - counties
  - towns
  - clubs

- What do we need for public outreach
  - Legal issues
  - management issues
  - Design, etc.

Other resources

Warden service - land owners relations

Tourism and chambers of commerce

County government - Preston and Bunker

**Next meeting - September 8 in Machias**