



### **Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Maine Grind in Ellsworth, 192 Main St., Ellsworth

**Present:** Bill Ceckler, Bob Bachorik, Charles Lyons, Charlie Corliss, Dave Wood, Geoffrey Knowles, Ian Staub, Jim Fisher, John Ashmore, Lisa Martin, Marsha Lyons, Michele Gagnon, Polly Ceckler. Rick Scribner, Sally Jacobs, Sandy Johnson, Shannon Fish, Stephen Rees, Steve Sloan, Tom Sidar

#### **Agenda:**

1. Introductions, newcomers welcomed, and sign-in sheet was circulated.
2. March 16 meeting minutes approved as circulated. Moved by Steve Rees and seconded by Polly Ceckler
3. Dave Wood presented the Treasurer's Report. \$140 from new memberships, \$292 expended for meals for kiosk workers. \$13,805.49 in treasury, \$6,688.21 in grants account and \$7117.28 in general funds.

Move to approve by Steve Rees and seconded by Polly Ceckler

4. MDOT/MDOC updates - Charlie Corliss

**Progress on the trail**—Last week Thibodeau started moving equipment in project turned over to Thibodeau 04/15. Whitneyville to Ayers Junction is open to all modes. From Whitneyville to Columbia Falls has its final surface, only needs to be graded and rolled. Needs to be accepted before opening. At the moment there is no new surface material prepared. From Columbia Falls to Cherryfield/Steuben ties have been removed. From Franklin/Steuben ties have been lifted and stacked. Good ties are being sold for landscaping and junk ties being sent to Fraser mill in Canada to be burned as biomass.

#### **How did the Trail make it thru the winter?**

Pretty well except for the big box culvert in the dike between Machias and East Machias. The concrete is ok but the sheet piling has moved and erosion has taken place on all sides. Charlie will be meeting with engineers Steve Richardson (DOC) and Fred Marshall (Plymouth Engineering) to discuss repair and redesign. He thinks we will be responsible for repairs. Comments from group that it should have been engineered to last longer than this



and an engineer's stamp should indicate some responsibility.

Prediction for finish. Cherryfield by July 4 and contract completed to Washington Junction by end of September beginning of October.

Progress on Kiosks. Complete at Machias. Ayres Junction and Washington Junction next. Signage committee working on the details of contents. Charlie will contact Downeast Correctional Center about building more.

Parking Machias, are we still OK? So far there has been no objection from the Lee Pellon Center about using their parking lot.

The trail is open for wheeled use. Suggested that all town government should receive direct e-mail about openings and closings. Charlie will put articles in the local papers.

Extension to Ellsworth Michele Gagnon, Ellsworth City Planner inquired about the time frame for the extension from Washington Junction into Ellsworth. Dan Stewart says the engineering plans for that have risen to a top priority. The trail from Ellsworth Falls to the area behind LL Bean will be built this summer. It will be paved. Planning for the STAR Center adjacent to the railbed in Ellsworth, a hub serving the Excursion Railroad, buses, park and ride, Trailhead for DEST, and Chamber of Commerce has re-commenced. It is very important to Ellsworth to have the in-town trail, the STAR Center and the DEST all connected in Ellsworth. Charlie reminded us that the DEST officially was designated to end at Washington Junction. Extra money from the rail sale would be used for the extension only after DEST is built that far. All the extra add-ons are eating into that money. Even though the price of steel has gone back up, the steel was sold all at one time to the contractor so no more money will be realized from this increase. We must continue to remind Dan Stewart that the extension to Ellsworth is a high priority for STC, DEST, STAR, and Ellsworth.

5. Ian Straub Town of Franklin reported the Selectmen are worried about the ties stored in Franklin, who is in charge of search and rescue and enforcement of regulations, and liability. He asked if the contractor had gone out of business. Charlie explained that the ties are on State land and will be removed soon. The contractor is still in business and will be working soon. Wardens with local police and fire personnel are in charge of rescue and enforcement. The railroad bed/trail is owned by the state which is insured. Private land-owners are protected by state statute as long as they are not charging for the use of their land. Visit [www.maine.gov/lor](http://www.maine.gov/lor) or call 287-8091 for more information on landowner relations and issues of access. Ian asked who was putting up the ATV and snowmobiling signs—Charlie said he is.

Charlie emphasized the need to enforce the no-trespassing regulations during construction.

Warden Shannon Fish said that reports of infractions should be directed top the State Police. They are the dispatch center for Wardens and Police. 866-2121 At some time in the future cameras will be installed on the trail to help with enforcement.

Franklin has a side-by-side ATV for emergency assistance and there is a rescue trailer in East Machias. ATVs purchase funds are available from Outdoor Heritage funds and IF&W.

It was suggested that the fire chiefs should have a get-together to train for trail emergencies and coordination. Joe McBrine has spoken of plans for training.

### **Old Business**

- a) Steve Sloan and Lisa Martin presented a Bangor Hydro update about the Bangor Hydro power line location from Ellsworth to Jonesboro. Emphasized that the new transmission line is need to cure weakness of single existing 115KV line. Franklin to Cherryfield line constructed in the 1930s. Needed to support the growth that is occurring along the coast and any new generation sources that may be built downeast. In 2007 PUC approved 43 miles of 115KV and a new substation in Sullivan. All easementsare in place.

The 12-mile section from Route 182 to Unionville where the line and the DEST will be co-located were discussed in detail. There will be three places where the line will cross over the trail (lines 30-40' above trail). The line will not go through the Schoodic Bog, it will be located closer to the foot of the mountain on land owned by Frenchman Bay Conservancy right at its property line with Maine Public Lands. Will follow the General Cobb Road. This route was decided by test borings in the bog that went over 40' before finding solid ground. The old line will be removed from the bog. New poles will be wood or metal that looks like wood. Seven lines per pole to accommodate the old (34.5 KV) and new (115KV) lines. Clearing will start next January. Will be energized in 2012.

Probably rail right-of-way and BHE right-of-way cannot be overlapped. Must consider things e.g., if the train should come back, need 65' to nearest vegetation and trail might allow vegetation to grow along edges, and need space for guy wires.

Herbicide use: applied by hand from backpacks in summertime. Low toxicity precuts used, not aerial, will be 33' from trail. Aim will be to attain and maintain a scrub-shrub area, not to kill all vegetation. Frequency: During emerging growth first and second summer after clearing, then probably wait 4-5 years till next application. Once in scrub-shrub then very sparingly sprayed to keep clear of tall trees.

Bangor Hydro will accommodate recreation as long as its requirements are safe. There will be trail closings at intervals for three years during construction. Will try to work mostly in winter. Will repair damage. Will provide temporary alternate routes.

- b) Signage Committee-Rick Scribner(Chair), Stephen Rees, Sally Jacobs, Kathleen Shannon, Misha Mytar, Jeremy Gabrielson, Bill Ceckler (ex officio) has been considering:
- i) Policy for Business directional signs on the trail
  - ii) Policy for Kiosk location and displays
  - iii) Approve a policy recommendation to present to MDOT and MDOC.
  - iv) implementation

The Signage committee has met three times and come up with a draft Policy which was circulated to the Board. As there was little time for this discussion and there were a number of important points brought up by Charlie about State requirements and how to pay for putting up signposts, it was decided to leave the discussion to the up-coming Signage Committee meeting which will be attended by Charlie and Bill. This meeting will be held Monday, April 26, from 2-4 at Jeremy's office in Machias.

**For the Future:**

- a) Maps - Sally  
Overall, segments, and town.  
Possible help from Kevin Riley/Dan Stewart, Judy East/Jeremy Gabrielson, Tora Johnson
- b) S.T.A.R. meeting-Jim Fisher, Sally Jacobs
- c) Trails Day Plans for June 5

**Future Meeting Dates:**

- Tuesday, May 11, Helen's, Machias, 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 15, Ellsworth 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned 6:10

Respectfully submitted

Sally Jacobs, *Secretary pro tem*