

Sunrise Trail Coalition
Meeting Minutes 4/22/09, 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Down East RC&D Offices, Cherryfield

Present: Bill Ceckler, Polly Ceckler, Stephanie Clement, Sally Jacobs, Jay Johnson, Sandy Johnson, Kathleen Shannon

Present by Phone: Dave Wood

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Everyone at the meeting and on the phone introduced themselves. Eleody and Charlie were unable to attend the meeting. A revised edition of the March 2009 minutes was distributed electronically. There were no other corrections or additions.

MOTION: To approve the March 2009 minutes.
MADE BY: Sally Jacobs
SECOND: Kathleen Shannon
VOTE: Unanimous in favor

2. Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's report for the month.

3. MDOC/MDOT Update

Sally said that she and Bill met with the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT). The goal is to have a map completed by National Trails Day in June. Jim Fisher developed a map of points of interest, and this was used as the basis for the MDOT map.

Sally reported that she also discussed trail parking areas with MDOT. The Maine Department of Conservation (MDOC) will design them. Dan Stewart, MDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, was interested in kiosks at the parking areas. Machias will be the first location for a kiosk. Dave Wood said that the East Coast Greenway kiosk design should be followed since the trail will be part of the Greenway. Dave described the kiosks further: one side includes maps and information about the trail and the Greenway. The other side would be for local business information and advertising. He reported that it is a kit that can be ordered for about \$3,950 apiece. It is easily assembled and is estimated to cost around \$1,500 to maintain. Dave said that the plans can also just be ordered so that local contractors and materials can be used. Kathleen agreed to research this further and provide information to Scott Ramsey at MDOC. EBS and Rhodes may be able to donate some of the materials needed for construction.

Sally reported that a brochure on the trail is needed. She added that Kevin Riley at MDOT would be willing to put together a brochure if we give him the information. Sally noted that the MDOT Communications Department needs to approve all press releases sent out by the Sunrise Trail Coalition regarding the Down East Sunrise Trail. One side of the brochure would be a map of the trail, and the other would include photos, the website, contact information, and a description of how the trail is managed. Sally will work on this prior to National Trails Day.

Sally and Bill reported that part of the trail with rail has been cleared in Ellsworth. The Washington Junction parking area has been completed. MDOC/MDOT hope that the work will continue through Mr. Henderson's property.

4. National Trails Day

Sally said that posters for the event are available for distribution. Committee members should plan on arriving by 9:30 a.m. Eleody will bring balloons. Commissioner McGowan is planning on flying to the event if someone can pick him up at the Machias airport. Charlie is working on the parade permit. Kathleen will also speak with Betsy Fitzgerald regarding the parade permit. Dave Whitney is offering a barbecue again. Bill said that he will also ask if Dave has tables to donate. Charlie is getting estimates for hats and t-shirts to be sold. He will bring designs to the next meeting.

An invitation list was prepared including the sheriffs, county commissioners, state senators, state representatives, and the Machias selectmen and town manager. Bill said that Jim Fisher would send out an e-mail invitation now and two weeks before the event. Bill said that he would follow up with the Poors regarding sending an e-mail invitation to local ATV clubs. Sandy will contact the Crosby's to see if they would like to bring horses to the parade. Kathleen will contact Bill Eckart at University of Maine at Machias, her husband at Washington Academy, and someone at Sunrise Canoe about the event. Sally will speak with Scott Fraser at Washington County Community College.

The parade will go from the boxcar to Whitney's tool shed. ATV's will be O.K. to ride on the road with the parade permit. Charlie will work with the construction company and with John Picher and Dan Stewart to get permission to go on the trail that day. Bill reported that Dwayne Shaw from the Salmon Federation offered use of their facility if we want to parade through; the committee felt that this was a little too far for the parade.

5. Ellsworth Information Session

The next regular meeting of the Sunrise Trail Coalition will be held on Wednesday, May 27th at 4:30 p.m. at the Maine Grind in Ellsworth. This will be followed by an evening informational meeting and membership drive at 7:00 p.m. Charlie will present the status of the trail, and applications will be available for membership. If Mr. Henderson comes to the meeting, the committee agreed to offer him time to present his case.

As soon as the poster is approved for the event, it will be sent to committee members. Stephanie offered to send the information out to Friends of Acadia's volunteer crew leaders, to the MDI Tomorrow Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, to College of the Atlantic, and to Footloose Friends. Tim Tunney will be asked to forward the information to the two running clubs on MDI. Sandy will send word to the Downeast Outing Club.

Sally will work on the membership forms. Food will be available for purchase from the Maine Grind, which will provide the space for a \$150 contribution. Bill will do further research with the Maine Grind to find out what refreshments, if any, they may provide.

MOTION: To approve sending \$150 to the Maine Grind for the Ellsworth outreach event.
MADE BY: Polly Ceckler
SECOND: Kathleen Shannon
VOTE: Unanimous in favor

6. Organizational Structure

Charlie is concerned about the management committee for the trail. This will be added to the next agenda.

7. Set Next Meetings

National Trails Day will be the next big meeting after the Ellsworth meeting. Kathleen said that she will check with Dave Whitney, Eleody, and Bill Cherry to see if holding every other meeting in Machias will better enable them to participate, but her suspicion is that meetings in Ellsworth and Cherryfield should be sufficient.

The next meetings were set at the following times:

July 22nd, 4:00 p.m., Ellsworth (Bill will ask Tim Tunney to see if the meeting can be held at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust)

August 26th, 1:00 p.m., Down East RC&D offices, Cherryfield

September 30th, 4:00 p.m., Ellsworth (again hope for BHBT offices)

October 28th – annual meeting, tentatively set for 11:00 a.m. at the Cherryfield Academy, followed by lunch

8. Other

Kathleen reported on concerns that she has heard from Machias. She has heard concerns from residents about noise from late night snowmobile use. She wondered whether the snowmobile clubs might be able to assist in recommending that snowmobiles not use the trail late at night. Kathleen also reported that residents are concerned about ATV's ripping up the trail. She reported that people have witnessed ATV's jumping up onto the trail and taking off. She wondered how this could be better managed. Sally added that motorized dirt bikes are considered ATV's in Maine and will be allowed on the trail. Stephanie wondered if this is a legislative issue. If dirt bikes are not wanted on the trail, it may take the legislature changing the state's definition of ATV. Sally said that Kathy Mazuchelli has offered to speak about how they manage multiple uses in Aroostook County. The committee agreed that this would be a good presentation in August, with multiple stakeholders invited including the selectmen, town managers, snowmobile and ATV clubs, police chiefs, and MDOC. Sandy wondered whether the trail could be closed at dusk, and Polly reminded everyone that these are the kinds of decisions to be made by the management committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Clement
Secretary