

Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting

April 26 2011, 4:00 P.M.
The Grind, Ellsworth

Welcome and sign-in – Bill Ceckler

Attending: Bill Ceckler, Ian Staub, Bill Robinson, Steve Rees, Sandy Johnson, Jay Johnson, Skip Varney, Charlie Corliss, Jef Fitzgerald, Ray Asher, Bob DeForrest, Carol Cuddy, Sally Jacobs, Misha Mytar, Linda Dinsmore, Al Dinsmore, Bill Cherry, Dave Wood, Jim Fisher, Tim Tunney, Jacob Van de Sande, Robinson, Polly Ceckler

Additions to agenda

- Picnic Tables
- Opportunity for Advertising

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

- Minutes approved without revision

Approval of Treasurer's Report – Dave Wood

- Balance is \$13,309.40
- Grants \$6,621.28 (I think)

Discussion of Dues Dave noted we are taking in less funding through membership than we are spending. Dave is willing to head a committee on future membership policies, including dues. Ian and Steve volunteered to join this committee.

Manager's Report – Charlie Corliss

- Trail is open from Ayers Junction to Whitneyville as of last Friday.
- Trail condition and Mud season -
 - Other sections look too soft still. Will continue to inspect the trail.
 - Some trail damage has occurred – resulting from storms
 - Whitneyville near the Machias River Bridge
 - Significant washout at the tidal bridge in East Machias
 - Beaver damage is widespread
 - Jonesboro – trail slumping
 - Will put repairs out to bid when assessment is complete
 - ATVs caused damage near Flanders Pond
 - Tie Removal damage – bonded and repairs contracted
 - Bangor Hydro – damage may be handled by the same contractor

- Questions:
 - How does DOC maintain the trail?
 - Skip
 - Don't have all of the equipment we need to maintain the trail.
 - Use recreational trails program to help fund maintenance
 - MaineDOT helps to pay for this maintenances
 - Federal RTP funds may be cut in the future, so we need to identify ways to sustain the trail long-term.
 - Funding allocation process may change – with funds passing through different hands
 - Nick Rogers may be able to provide updates on the status of legislation
 - Some of the Federal funds do not permit ATVs
- What can STC do to support future funding of the trail?
 - Not recommending any action at this place
 - Continue to support the RTP program
- New Trail Amenities
 - Robertson Camps
- Trail reservations
 - June 4 – Downeast Health Services
 - June 5 – Friend and Friend
 - September 18 – Huntington's Disease
- New Trail Signs will be posted – ATV – Maine ATV Trail System
 - MATS 206 (Ellsworth to Robinson)
 - Other local and regional trails will also be numbered
 - A map of the system is prepared by the Department of Conservation – next years maps will have the new numbering system.
- Putting together a list of amenities that trail users want
 - Mile markers
 - Side trails
 - Businesses – food, lodging, fuel
- Misha – announced Maine Outdoor Heritage Foundation for creation of a trail guide – trip planner
 - \$5,000 + \$4,000 matching funds
 - Breaking the trail into 13 discrete sections
 - Trail features
 - Side trips
 - Amenities
 - All modes
 - Business services

- Need to find out another way to carry this work forward
 - Need to follow the guidelines
- Misha cannot do this work, at least not with her job ending in June (and moving to Maine Coast Heritage Trust)
- HCPC might be able to carry out this contract
 - Jim noted that HCPC are working on similar projects now
- Bill Ceckler noted that the Chambers of Commerce might like to be involved
- DART is also likely to be involved

Picnic Tables – Steve Rees

Met with Rusty Gay from Cherryfield that makes tables in Milbridge

Prices	6'	8'	Pentagonal
Pressure Treated	\$67	\$87	\$140
Not Treated	\$53	\$62	\$119

Stain, labor, etc.

Current stock of tables

- 6' table \$ 90.00
- 8' table \$110.00
- Five sided \$240.00
- Pressure Treated add \$20 or \$30

- Bill and Sally suggested that pressure treated wood be considered for the legs, but not the bench or table top.
- Checking with building supply companies for donations or materials or funds or discounts. He has not heard back from upper management.
- Anchoring the tables – several options were suggested. Each site may require a specific solution.
- Sally moves that we authorize Steve to pursue pricing with Rusty Gay and authorize the executive committee to make a final purchase decision for 17 tables.

Outhouses - Misha

- A. Vault toilets cost \$3,000 - \$4,000 to install
 - 1) Cleaning – might do this by volunteer
 - 2) Pumping - \$300 per visit
 - a. Ayers Junction – 2 times per year
 - b. Washington Junction 3 times per year
 - 3) Fund - \$1,500 / year for maintenance

- B. Screened porta-potty
 - 1) Lower upfront cost
 - 2) \$205 / month pumping and maintenance
- C. Porta-potties without screens
 - 1) No screening cost
 - 2) Same maintenance as Option B

Funding – BP&L may have funds from the initial construction. Maintenance is the part we would have to fund.

Misha suggests that if we want to go beyond the current porta-potty, then we would need to prepare a maintenance agreement.

Motion: Steve Rees moves that we pay as we go this year. Sally seconds motion, but opposed the idea.

- Sally and Jacob argued for investing now in option A.
- Bill noted that we have been successful in raising funds.
- Jim – offered to contact Downeast Heritage Rail to see whether they would like to partner in this.
- Ian – might go with option B to make it look nicer.
- Sally – will go with B or C, but we need to really look for volunteers for Privy

Vote taken – 8 favor, 5 oppose

- Sally – reiterated the importance of organizing a subcommittee to identify privy partners
- Jim, Sally and Bill will work on this.

Sally noted that the grants were given for trail heads.

- a. Time to start
 - With RC&D out of the picture we need to think about where we can apply for money
- b. Trail use counter and RTP grant.
- c. Support of Clubs along the Trail

Robinson Cottages and Guide Service Bill Robinson – reported on his business investments in Edmunds Township

- Have seen changes in hunting, fishing and recreational options in Washington County
- Now working on ways to work with the trail as a source of activity
- Built a trailside cabin with maps, first aid, information, etc.
- Two campsites are built on Cathance Stream – where people can camp

- Would like to put an outhouse near the cabin
- A link is on our website for this facility

RC&D Update - Jim Fisher

- RC&D is no longer funded
- Barbara Maurer and Heidi have moved to the Machias office to work on other projects
- Barbara continues to provide part time support to DART out of the Cherryfield Office, but the location may change in the near future

Trail extensions: Misha Mytar

- Moosehorn
- Ellsworth
- Schoodic to Schoodic

Joe Mc Brine's rescue sled Progress - Tabled

Help from Chamber of Chamber of Commerce on trail Booklet of Services - Tabled

Signage Committee: Sally Jacobs, Steve Rees - Tabled

- a. Is there any Progress?
- b. *Policies are completed and posted online.*
- c. *We have not done any active outreach*

BHE activities , Steve Rees Charlie Corliss - Tabled

- a. Where are they?
- b. When is work continuing?
- c. Plans for spring and summer?
- d. BHE help with parking area at 183

Kiosks - Tabled

- a. Ayres Junction
- b. Washington Junction
- c. Other

Next Meeting May 24 4:00 P.m. Helen's Machias