

Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2010, 4:00 P.M., Helen's Restaurant, Machias

Present: Katherine Cassidy, Bill Ceckler, Polly Ceckler, Charlie Corliss, Dave Craven, Peter Knowles, Chris Loughlin, Joseph McBrine, Jr., Gail Peters, Jon Ramsdell, Steve Rees

1. Minutes

Bill said that the minutes were sent out via e-mail. He solicited comments. Polly noted that the minutes should reflect that Bill, Sally, and Dave were all present at the meeting. She also stated that the 35KV line in the Bangor Hydro discussion (p. 3 under Old Business) should be 135 KV.

MOTION: To approve the April 2010 minutes as amended.
MADE BY: Polly Ceckler
SECOND: Gail Peters
VOTE: Unanimously approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Bill noted that there is no report from Dave, but he has filled out the IRS 990 form.

3. Update from Maine Department of Conservation

Charlie reported that the contractors have started crushing surface materials in Hancock. Bill asked whether materials from the reconstruction of Rt. 1A are being used. Charlie replied that they are not. Crushed concrete is being used on the trail, just like on the parking areas. He added that it packs tightly, but could create dust.

Charlie reported that by the end of the week, a crusher will be set up in Columbia for the section of the trail headed west. This week, the contractors are working on ditching in Hancock and will start installing culverts. An office trailer is being set up in Cherryfield, but the contractors are operating on a limited crew this year. The section between Columbia Falls to Whitneyville needs grading and rolling.

Charlie said that as segments are completed and accepted by the state, they will open. He said the next section to open will be from Columbia Falls to Whitneyville. Charlie said that he would like to see the trail opened to Harrington so that a new ATV trail linkage will be opened.

Charlie said that a beaver plugged one of the culverts, and the trail would have been eroded had a warden not called. A beaver deceiver is needed. Charlie said that generally the beaver deceivers have worked well on the trail, but one failed due to pressure behind it. Gail wondered whether any scents could be added to discourage

the beavers. Charlie said that he has been keeping the water level down at Schoodic Bog and is looking for a pipe design to keep the water flowing.

Polly asked about the washout in Machias. Charlie said that it is still eroding, and he has had four contractors look at it. Charlie is concerned that it is undercutting the trail.

Charlie reported that the Maine Department of Transportation is replacing a culvert on Rt. 192, which will result in a trail closure for several days. He added that this will probably not happen until June, and the work will be done on weekdays.

Charlie said that the Downeast Correctional Facility is willing to do two more kiosks, but that some of the same materials may not be available. Charlie will talk with the Downeast Salmon Federation to see if they have additional materials to donate. Bill asked whether he should speak with the Hancock County Jail, and Charlie recommended that he wait.

Charlie said that not as much extra work is anticipated to be needed, but more exploration is needed from Franklin to Hancock. Bill added that parking areas are needed. Charlie cautioned that there won't be much money left after finishing the trail to Washington Junction. He said that it probably won't be enough to complete the trail into Ellsworth.

4. Signage

The sign committee has held meetings regarding business signs. Charlie said that the 6x6" Sunrise Trail Coalition signs have not yet been ordered. Sally and Tony have been communicating regarding the East Coast Greenway signs for the trail.

Steve reported that the signage committee got comments on the signage policy, and it will be routed by the Maine Departments of Conservation and Transportation. The committee recommended that the Sunrise Trail Coalition oversee implementation and enforcement of signs and that they collect and expend funds. Steve recommended that a follow-up meeting is needed because businesses are ready to place their signs. Charlie said that illegal signs are already being placed on the trail. Steve said that policies for seasonal signage are important to consider. Bill said that he would contact Scott to set a time to meet with Steve and the committee. Gail suggested that the Machais Chamber might be an ally in reaching out to businesses to encourage them to wait on sign placement and that advertising opportunities will soon be available. Gail will follow up with Kathleen Shannon.

5. Bangor Hydro

Steve agreed to serve as the contact for an ad hoc committee working on Bangor Hydro issues on the trail. Bill recommended that Bob De Forrest and Misha Mytar also be asked to join. Steve said that he has background as an administrative attorney and will be

able to follow the process to make sure that the Sunrise Trail Coalition is part of the negotiations. Charlie said that Bangor Hydro will be working on this for three years and added that they are willing to help with beaver issues. Bill will send a letter to Steve Sloan letting them know about the new committee. Steve will contact Bob and Misha regarding participation on the committee.

6. Walking Group

Katherine said that she is trying to get a walking group going that will use the trail. Every Saturday, people will be walking beginning at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Katherine added that the ATV trail users have been very respectful.

7. Newsletter

Charlie recommended that a short, monthly e-newsletter might be an effective means of communication. Charlie and Bill will write short updates for the e-newsletter, which will be sent to all e-mail addresses on record. A paper newsletter will be sent to the entire mailing list at the next point of major news – perhaps in July. Charlie recommended that the time frame between writing articles and mailing the newsletters should be shortened so the information is correct.

8. National Trails Day

Bill said that several people have recommended not participating in a National Trails Day celebration this year due to other commitments. Coalition members agreed and suggested holding a bigger celebration once the trail is complete.

9. Kiosk in Machias

Charlie, Bill, and Sally talked about the kiosk in Machias. No signs are there yet, but Charlie is working on getting one there that identifies the Down East Sunrise Trail. He said that the kiosk has a map of the trail from Machias to Ayers Junction and a map of the Sunrise ATV trail system. In winter, a snowmobile map will be added. Down the road, the goal is to have the Sunrise Trail map show the trail junctions.

10. Motorized Bicycles

Charlie mentioned that he is not sure where motorized bicycles fall under state law.

11. Enforcement Issues

Warden Craven reported that several summons were issued when the trail was closed, particularly to someone operating a “mud truck” on the trail. He had no updates on the investigation into the nails that were thrown onto the trail at East Machias. He said that ATV club members picked up all the nails.

Bill asked how the wardens will address illegal use on the trail. Warden Craven said that a grant is enabling the wardens to cover the trail on their days off. The funding is

from the Governor's Task Force and has allowed for regular patrols of the Downeast Sunrise Trail. Charlie added that signage is also helpful on the trail.

Bill asked about evacuation on the trail. Warden McBrine reported that a rescue trailer will be housed in East Machias. He added that \$3,700 has been received from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund for a side-by-side ATV to pull the trailer. Polaris encouraged the wardens to apply for the full amount of funding needed for the ATV, but then turned the grant request down. The ATV would have come with a ski kit.

Charlie said that the Town of Franklin and Ellsworth have side-by-side ATVs. The Dennysville Fire Department also has a rescue boggin that can accommodate wheels. The wardens will be hosting two mock rescues.

Warden Craven said that the complaints against ATVs have been minor – mostly for dust, but these situations have been handled by talking to the families of the ATV-users. Charlie added that he is working on resolving dust issues by securing a water truck and calcium chloride from MDOT.

Charlie added that the East Machias snowmobile and ATV connector to the Rocky Lake Unit should be completed by next week.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be June 15th at 4 p.m. at the Maine Grind in Ellsworth.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Clement
Secretary