

Minutes of May 24, 2011 Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting Helen's Restaurant, Machias, ME

Present: Stephen Rees (presiding in absence of Pres. Ceckler), Gary Dowling, Polly Ceckler, Charlie Corliss, Lindsay McMahon, Peter Knowles, Bill Cherry, Chris Loughlin (Machias Manager), Steve Sloan, Judy East, Sally Jacobs

1. Steve called the meeting to order at 4:05. Commenced with welcome and sign-in. Jeremy Gabrielson has moved to Portland. No longer with Washington County Council of Governments. Judy East represented WACOG in his stead.

Announcement: Maine Association of Planners is awarding the STC the "Project of the Year" award for the DEST. The presentation will be at their annual conference June 17, at Bowdoin. STC nominated by Jim Fisher. Thank you, Jim.

2. April Minutes approved. Request that minutes be e-mailed to Board, not just on web.

3. Treasurer's Report Expenditures are running in excess of income. Dave Wood, Ian Staub and Steve Rees will meet to address this. Noted that e-mail renewal notices are needed. Approval of Treasurer's Report was deferred in absence of Treasurer.

4. Manager's Report, Charlie Corliss

Events: June 4th Down East Healthy Walkers at Washington Junction.
June 5th Friend and Friend DEST benefit. Rides starting at Washington Junction and Machias. BBQ at Cherryfield Cable Pool.

Some washouts need to be smoothed out. Some he can do and some will go out to bid. Some new culverts need to be installed. Caution and warning signs have been posted.

Some damage occurred last fall during the last of the rr tie pick-up. 600-700' in Marion needs repair.

A beaver dam was breached west of Cherryfield and re-vegetation is needed. Beaver activity between Unionville and Steuben. 2 culverts were plugged. Thought a cherrypicker would be needed for the cleaning but Charlie cut down a tree and ramming it through. Charlie contacted landowners. One will have a culvert and beaver deceiver. Some will be trapped. Some deceivers have been destroyed by the beavers.

Revenge?

Charlie will inquire of others if it is possible for others to get permits to help with the beavers. Jim Hall could give permits to other who request them. We need more eyes and help on the trail. Each beaver deceiver has a number. For the moment if there is a problem record the number and call Charlie.

?Sign repair at Goodwin's Siding?

Some posts are needed: new, some have been removed or broken. Kiosks--Some installation help from the Correctional Facility. Will contact JJ? Holes will be dug. 37 inmates were transferred to Warren. The Governor won't let any prisoners with greater than a 3-year sentence leave the prison.

Some interest in signs, Bill Robinson for one and Charlie is talking to another. **After kiosks are in place we will place ads in newspapers.**

Chris Laughlin reported that there is little conflict between users in the immediate Machias area. Business activity has increased, more for Helen's than Bluebird. Irving station big time.

The flapper on dike culvert is not working correctly and 14 acres are newly flooded (1 acre was normally flooded). Charlie says the flapper was repaired and the problem is perhaps due to the breached dam between the two fields. (perpendicular to the trail). Part of the flooding may be due to the larger box culvert that was required by the DEP and Army Corps.

Recognized a need for in-town guides and direction so ATVs know how to get to the amenities. No organization now because nobody knows the right way.

There is a parking problem on the dike with trail-user parking interfering with the Farmer's market space. Cherryfield foods owns land across from RR station. It is full of construction equipment. Lee Pellon has been ok with parking but people have not parked carefully there. **We should talk to someone at Cherryfield Foods. Since the parking would not be so obvious as on the dike we would need good signage.**

Carol Ann Sprague owns the land across from Dunkin Donuts that is being used for parking. Could be a problem. Talk to her?

Perhaps we could have parking on Rt 192 at Hanscoms. Need to talk about long-term parking and RV hook-ups. This is out-of the way and would need signage.

We need signage to guide people to the Rim Road and Archibald's for parking. That would require that we put in an information kiosk at those places. Bill and Steve will set up a committee to study this.

5. Sally Jacobs reported that the Maine Trails Advisory Committee (DOC) would be visiting on Wednesday, July 13. **Need to check to see if any ATVs could be brought from Augusta and what bicycles/ATVs we need to provide. Sally ask Mick Rogers what transportation is needed. What will people bring? Ask Dave Whitney and Larry Barker about providing equipment? What time? Should suggest that they stop at Washington Junction, Route 183 (Tunk Lake Road) and Cherryfield on the way. Also see Bangor Hydro construction (probably near Rt 183.**

6. See 4.

7. Bangor Hydro Report. Skip Varney, Charlie and Steve Rees have made a new agreement about clearing and construction through 2012.

Steve Sloan--There will be a shift in focus from winter to summer/fall. This would eliminate the need for plowing that caused problems last winter.

There is little activity now. Mud season shut everything down.

The remaining section is from Schoodic Bog, Card Mill Stream to the Blueberry fields and north of Schoodic Bog ending in Unionville. Will be working there from now till mid July.

Line Construction – Three-Phase line construction will be:

Ellsworth Rt. 179 (no trail impact there.)

June 20, General Cobb Road (if dry)

Or start at Tunk Lake Rd (183) and go back through then to Steuben (August to October).

Trucks and equipment will travel on the trail and get off while work is occurring. Segments of the trail will be closed for short times when moving equipment.

Any surface damage will be fixed. Use prescribed surface material.

Some cleared areas are being watched for maintenance needs. Some ruts on trail. Maybe wait to be fixed when totally finished. In spring/summer/fall of 2012 will address restoration.

Need to close the arrangements on the mitigation lands. All systems are going.

May use the bridge over Card Stream to bring in materials by truck. Some are too wide to pass over trail bridges with the railings. Will need to remove railings move them out and then replace. Will need approval of Steve Richardson at DOC.

BHE will get trail construction info to the media and e-mail list-serves. Articles need to educate about why and how things are being done. This information needs to be placed on trail too.

e-mail notices can also be sent by the following (reaching total of about 3000 people DART, Local Happenings, Mighty Women, Washing County One Community.

Also through Bike Coalition, Rails to Trails, and East Coast Greenway.

Gravel pile at 183 needs to be smoothed out.

8. June meeting we need to discuss outhouse and maintenance, DOC money.

Steve Rees reported that 17 picnic table are ordered with help from Viking and building by Rusty Gay. Viking cost \$1106.92

8' tables, discussed the fact that we wanted benches attached, not separate.

Rusty Gay will complete these by July 30. Once fabricated Charlie will pick them up few by few and deliver them.

The tables at Ayers Junction and Washington Junction (and Route 191?) should be secured. Charlie has this started.

Tunk Stream has been added to list of picnic table areas.

Judy East reported that the "Bold Coast Scenic By-way along the Bold Cost, Milbridge to Eastport will make Federal Money available. This can be integrated with the DEST. \$100,000 will be available October 1.

Dan Stewart, MDOT bike-ped coordinator allotted money for trails in 6 village connecting to the DEST. Jeremy Gabrielson is in charge even though he has left and will probably work on this.

Put on agenda for June. Judy will send a draft plan to us before June 14th.

9. Recruit volunteers for Friend and Friend Ride.

10. no report

11. no word yet

12. We really need printed brochures with details of DEST amenities. **Put on June agenda.** There may be money from Bike-Ped MODOT and Misha' grant and WACO.

13. Dan Stewart has asked for help with trail segment maps. **Sally Jacobs will bring the large draft maps he provided to the June meeting for our comments.**

14. Next meeting: Discussion ensued.

Charlie is gone June 19-July 5 so can't meet on scheduled date June 21. Need to meet before then. Poll group. **(Secretary's note: Next meeting is Wednesday, June 15 at The Maine Grind in Ellsworth, 4-6)**

It was suggested that in the future we might meet in Cherryfield, perhaps at Washington Academy.

15. Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Jacobs, Secretary *pro tem*