

## **Sunrise Trail Coalition Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 25, 2007, Cherryfield Academy, Main Street  
Cherryfield, Maine**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

Announcement that Hungry Bear Restaurant will be closing on Saturday.

People present: Bill and Polly Ceckler, Jacob van de Sande, Charles Corliss, Bob Bachorik, Terry Begley, Candy Bachorik, Tim Tunney, Julie Isbill, Gary Edwards, Maggie Warren, Jim Fisher, Jeremy Gabrielson, Dave Wood, Sally Jacobs, Sandy Johnson

1. Introductions and appointment of interim secretary: Maggie Warren
2. Approval of August meeting minutes. Boxcar Minutes not here. Sally has one copy. Motion by Bill Ceckler, seconded, motion carried to approve Minutes as read.
3. Treasurer's Report--Eleody Libby. Eleody not present to report. She said she would have the membership and big address list done by Friday to generate labels for newsletter that is almost done. We have 500 people more or less. We sent first newsletter out first class so we would get undelivered ones back. It was agreed to send out Fall newsletter to all on list, whether members or not. People have complained that they wrote checks and they were never cashed. We need to check on those things. Not all names have telephone numbers. Sometimes we have only physical address and/or email address. We need to clean up physical addresses. Since we hope first newsletter in 2008 will announce ribbon cutting, this newsletter will invite people to Annual Meeting, then following newsletter goes only to members and stakeholders. Jim Fisher will check to see if legislators are on the list.

Meredith Jones (reported by Bill Ceckler), Ellsworth Transportation Hub Group, gave us \$2,000. We do not have to spend that in 2007, but we must write a report by end of year. Jim will ask Tracy where this stands because he will be meeting with Passenger people tonight.

4. Charlie Corliss: MDOC/MDOT Update

Washington Junction review. DOC engineer examining way train can turn around. Letter has been sent, proposing an existing road that parallels the tracks. Option 1 is on south side. Original proposal was that we would rebuild the "Y."

Plymouth Engineering: Relatively quiet. Dave R. will check with them. Suggest rep from Plymouth come to one of our meetings (Fred Marshall). Bid package was going to take 6 weeks from time they were hired. Given that, nothing will happen this year. In all likelihood, it will be December before opening contract.

Sally called Fred Marshall and John Pichet: says pictures are great but engineering firm needs more accurate GPS. Sally pointed out that the Rizzo study, at a cost of \$250K, used GPS down entire trail. She asked if they would look into that. Fred M. knows that we have that, and it shouldn't be duplicated. We have survey of RR bed itself with all original culverts.

Charlie says there is still talk about flying this, but DOC Commissioner is not committed yet. Thinks it's too expensive. Sally recommends it for before and after inventory. Dave R. will get involved and see what influence he can have. Does anyone have ideas about

how to come up with \$1K toward the helicopter survey? Jim says entire state has been flown over, and these images are due to be on web site very soon. However, if not geo-referenced, will not be very useful to us. Helicopter will be closer—more detail. When ready, Jim will drive to Augusta and get them registered—too large to put on CD.

Deed shows that DOC sold to Machias the portion of the ground that the road is on. We have deed reference. Seems to be encroachment by prefab group and by bank property with signs and prefab housing. We do own land with RR track on far side of road. Land across from Cherryfield foods. Machias is thinking about buying it. Maybe we could apply for grant and help town of Machias defray these expenses.

We need to know how far right of way goes beyond the extra. Dave R will be looking into those measurements.

Mike Murphy said portion of bank property that surrounds station can be used to landscape.

Boxcar: Gary reported that the Station 98 Committee had a meeting. Jim Miner has most knowledge but wasn't there. Betsy, Gary, Charlie, and Kathleen from the Chamber spent time looking at history. Many people are no longer involved. Some \$ has been spent and work done to protect the building. Some interest in Machias (local businesses) to finish this job. Some architectural drawings have been done. Building is on Historic Register. Building will be preserved, not razed and copied. At this point, we're getting Jeremy involved. Original uses for facility: DOT had been looking for a rest stop for Gateway 1 usage. Chamber was looking at it for home and brochures, etc. Boxcar was not part of discussion 2 to 3 years ago. Design of building at that time was to have it done by 1998, have a museum, tourist info center, and chamber offices. Tourist info materials would go in the boxcar. Committee wants to move boxcar close to depot and have them connected. Public facilities? Gary assumes DOT/DOC want to have restrooms 24/7. Betsy had a selectmen's meeting, gave a report; there was interesting discussion. They aren't interested in operating a 24/7 restroom. Asked Jeremy to be involved because he and Jim are working on transportation contracts, corridor contracts, etc. Two state agencies, town committees, and chamber want to come up with plan and funding to make this happen. Stickiest issue will be toilet facilities. If inside station, station could be locked and not be 24/7. Motorists and trail users travel 24/7. Who will pay and who will do it? Kathleen will work with Historic Preservation. Keep interior, etc., pristine of train station, not disturb its character.

We still only have half a stencil on the boxcar. Gilbert Barry, a carpenter, could add doors, windows, skylight. Julie says it needs design. Downeast Correctional facility will build it for us if they have a guide. There is some \$\$ available. Best scenario: get labor for free, then pay local leadership. Eric Holmes is another carpenter possibility. Depot and boxcar need to match up. Kathleen asked for names of historic architects, but they were all from Boston or Bangor. Liddy Hubbel lived in Cherryfield: avid cyclist and historic architect. Tim will talk to her and have her contact Betsy and/or Kathleen. Julie said Marilyn Dowling et al., are committed to finishing the stenciling.

Charlie will be in Machias this week and will try to pull this all together. Julie says \$1K is left from original \$3K, Rails to Trails will pay once they are invoiced.

Insulation in boxcar, skylights, windows. Julie feels we should keep working on boxcar and not wait for station to be fixed up. Get inside, floor and walls need to be done ASAP.

Sally announced that this is Julie's last official monthly meeting before she moves on to a new project.

### **Old Business**

1. Boxcar Project Update See above.

2. Map Committee Report – Charlie, Tora Johnson

Nothing to report. Charlie has no GIS capability at the moment. We need a goal for the product, such as a big mock-up map for the Business Conference. People can sign their name, put their business. Jeremy has talked with Tory.

Jim and Jeremy have been negotiating a grant with DOT for doing a geotourism project: Schoodic, Blackwoods byways, and Sunrise Trail. Create a series of virtual geo caches along these byways. 8½ x 11 interpretive panels mounted low in easy and not so easy to reach places. Will work with national geocaching web site. **They will need from this group a list of places that we think will be worth putting on these panels.**

DOT says they may be able to make these for \$10 ea in their sign shop. Ice Age Trail, fish spawning, deer yards, historic properties, etc. Should be small and easily replaceable. Have to stay close to byways. Granite, cedar posts, keep 'em simple. Could we kick in \$\$ if we needed more than Byways money could provide? Yes, says Jim. We don't want to pay a graphics artist to design each of those. Dan says DOT is interested in helping out with design services. Jim thinks that Historical Society could join in. Sponsors might be able to have their logos in corner of markers. He wants a lot of these up next spring. **Will be a future agenda item.**

Jeremy: USDA's grant, sustainable Internet-based map. From Rt. 1 turnoff in Ellsworth to Calais. Click on attraction. List of nearby businesses. Tourists can create their own tour. Will have levels. Thematic Trails Project is the working name.

3. Conference Committee Report, Draft schedule--Jeremey Gabrielson and discussion—Gary Edwards. (Committee members and advisors: Jeremy Grabrielson and Gary Edwards, Co-chairs, Stephanie Clement, Maggie Warren, Jen Boothroyd, Fred Cook, Micki Sumpter, Jim Fisher, Eleody Libby, Janet Toth, Kathleen Shannon, Sally Jacobs, Harold Clossey)

We had a phone conference for conference planning. Working on conference for April 2, UMM is our preferred location. Morning panel will be trail info and some business development. Afternoon will be one track: new entrepreneurs, other will be officials. Looking at the role of the trail and economic development. What can you do? Here are some resources to get started. Tim is interested in getting involved. Opportunites for communities to look at their own infrastructure and see how that ties in. One speaker may be Bud Newell, head of trails programs in Maine.

Saco,, Gardiner, and Brunswick already are committing \$\$ for trails and sidewalks. Roger Raymond, town manager in Bucksport, is high on waterfront development, trails, etc.

Jim reported on progress planning for a trail connecting Bangor and Bucksport. Early planning for a riverfront trail ran into many impediments. The planning team is now looking at utility corridor route. A power-line corridor in principle could reach Ellsworth.

Billl suggested that when you go to a conference, it's good to have a product. At our conference, we need to have a list of participants and a big map that will fit in with what Jim and Jeremy are doing to generate enthusiasm for the trail.

Sally is working on UMM. We'd like to have something that people could see, walk on after lunch. Tour that people could see after the conference at 3.

Gary's agency will host the next call. And do some printing of brochures. Try to package stuff that presenters provide to give to participants. Two businesspeople on committee: Janet Toth and XXXX. We need someone on chamber who can represent small businesses. David Whitney is another possibility.

Tim Tunney volunteered to be a panelist and thinks the other banks in Washington/Hancock counties would be glad to send a representative.

November: East Coast Greenway presentation. Maggie will notify Tony Barrett. Plymouth Engineering. Jim says Fred will come. Invite him to Annual Meeting.

4. Annual meeting—October 24, 10:00 a.m. We supply drinks, plates and cutlery, grill, bring your spatula. Bring something for yourself and something for others. Email and invite people. Put in local newspapers. Kathleen will do a PR and put it in local newspapers. Maggie will make a PowerPoint presentation and maybe we'll have the helicopter video for a "program." Dan Spranger will try to have student video ready. Tim will try to come but he will be in conference in NH. Bill Ceckler will have nominations ready for election. Carol Cuddy will stay on the board, Tim Tunney will join the board, and Jeremy will be ex officio.

Sally will put a notebook of Minutes in Charlie's office. Jim will put them on web site.

Jim Fisher will work out details about getting newsletter out well before Annual Meeting.

Bill will talk to Eleody about whether she still wants to be Treasurer. She is also handling membership. Both are big jobs.

### **New Business**

East Coast Greenway report and discussion of interim onroad route: Dave Wood, East Coast Greenway route checker in Maine, has been reviewing ECG from Calais to Brunswick. There was good discussion among Jim Fisher, Jeremy Gabrielson, and rest of Board. All are in agreement with Dave's recommended route changes. More discussion will take place separately that will include other East Coast Greenway representatives, before final report is submitted to Dan Stewart and the Bike/Ped Council.

Candy and Bob Bachorik will ride Jay to Farmington Trail in a couple of weeks to check it out. Bucksport has stone dust facility. First we need to get the rails up; a variety of surfaces are available from fine sand to gravel. It all depends on how much money there is to spend.

Jacob submitted a grant for to The Conservation Fund for children and nature. \$20 million for 20 areas. Jacob will investigate The Edge, deadlines, ways to involve the trail, schools, unstructured time.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM. Respectfully submitted, Maggie Warren