

Down East Sunrise Trail Coalition Regular Board Meeting

Minutes of September 26, 2017 @ 6PM – Cherryfield Academy

Members Present: Steve Rees, Carol Cuddy, Andy Gallant, Gerry Nasberg, Polly Ceckler, Bill Ceckler, Ray Archer, Charlie Robinson

Others Present: Crystal Hitchings, Jim Fisher, Joe McPhail, Ash Bladen

Minutes of (last meeting date) were approved as presented.

The **Treasury Report** shows that the ATV raffle generated a \$4,7985 profit, and the total checkbook balance as of today is \$26,499.

ATV Ride Event

A summary of the ATV ride was provided to the group. Weather and attendance were good, and the time change was well accepted. The only complaint heard was insufficient porta-potty capacity. The group decided that a porta-potty should be rented for this event in the future.

Approximately \$1600-1700 was raised the day of the event. Carol reported that about \$10,200 net was raised, with the raffled ATV costing \$5405.

The group discussed the need for more advertising and promotion of future events via social media, email, posters, community calendars, and radio; and establishing a definite date and rain-date prior to any raffle ticket sales. Another 100 machines could be accommodated in the future. Careful coordination with the State around event dates may help reduce schedule conflicts and increase State participation (IFW had a statewide clean-up with a group at Washington Junction the day of the event).

Spending Current Finances

Carol compiled and shared a rough but fairly complete record of grants received and expended by the Coalition. The group discussed new ways to spend the last of the money slated for boxcar renovation in Machias (the Chamber moved into the station instead). Ideas included building a privy at Cable Pool Park – maybe in the shape of a boxcar - with a brochure rack. Installation of a privy at the Cable Pool should be discussed with the Selectboard. Charlie Corliss, Steve, or Jim would be best suited to present this to the Town.

Improving the Mile 32 campground, improvements to Ayers Junction, and connecting the trail with the Cherryfield depot station (hoped to be a museum and info center some day) were other ideas discussed by the group. A brochure rack should be installed at the Dennysville ATV club, too. The group needs to define their 1-5 year work plan for spending existing and future funds.

The group discussed purchasing an ATV for next year's raffle now in order to take advantage of higher year-end rebates. The vote was 7-1 in favor of pursuing this idea. Andy

and Carol will look into this. Steve expressed concern about insurance and using funds too early.

Bill made a motion to authorize Charlie Corliss to install a new kiosk in Ellsworth. No location is chosen yet to dictate size, materials, etc. The motion was tabled so Charlie C. can participate when present.

A lack of railroad history being shared was discussed at a previous meeting. The group talked about installing small kiosks at various locations to share railroad history with residents and visitors. A historic/interpretive sub-committee should be formed to pursue these ideas. Joe will discuss a historic site with the Dennysville club for possible interpretive visitor information.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held October 25th at 5pm at the Ellsworth City Hall, at which time new Board members will be elected and two sections of the Bylaws will be updated (reduce Quorum for annual meeting from 50% to 33%; allow electronic transmission of annual meeting notices).

There are approximately 147 members of the Coalition, with about 10% being business members. The group discussed working with Chambers and communities to gain more member support.

Emergency Services

Emergency departments should have maps (available now in PDF form) of the trail with mile markers to help them locate people on the trail during emergencies.

Website

Jen Boothroyd resigned from Hancock County Planning Commission, and the group discussed how to maintain the website. Jim Fisher can maintain it for now, but a new website may need to be created independent of HCPC. Jim will file the 990 this year.

Trail Maintenance

The group is concerned that, once Charlie Corliss retires, the trail may fall into unusable condition quickly. Joe thinks maintenance, particularly grading, may be a bigger issue than just resurfacing. Joe suggested surface treatment grading tests on the different trail surfaces to see what works better. Charlie Robinson confirmed there are many variations of surface condition along the trail, and agreed testing sections would be helpful. Ash suggested promotion of the trail for mountain and fat bikes in the meantime. Bill said he would convene a group to talk with the DOC about maintenance solutions and tests.