

Meeting of the Sunrise Trail Coalition
Cherryfield Academy
Wednesday, February 28th, 2007

In Attendance:	Julie Isbill	Arthur Tenan
	Sally Jacobs	Jeremy Gabrielson
	Bill Ceckler	Charlie Corliss
	Jim Fisher	Jacob van de Sande
	Jen Boothroyd	Sandy Johnson
	Tony Barrett	Maggie Warren
	Rick Tanney	Ray Antunes
	Tora Johnson	Barbara Antunes
	Chuck Simpson	Tom Reeves

Sally started the meeting with a “Welcome” to the guests who came to talk with us about mapping.

The January minutes were accepted as submitted. All in favor; no abstentions.

Treasures Report: Eleody was unable to join us; so Jim Fisher presented the treasurer’s report. Of the 500+ newsletters that went out, 73 came back. We were subsequently able to update address information for 33 of the returned letters. So we now have a strong mailing list for future mailings. As of the meeting, there was \$4,442 in the bank; and we are anticipating another \$483. Of that, \$4,000 is committed for the Box Car Restoration.

There are 9 new memberships since the last meeting. The committee decided that acknowledging new members and donations is necessary. Given the amount of work that is involved in managing membership and acting as Treasurer, memberships should be acknowledged by email (when possible); with letters of acknowledgement for large donations *or* when email is not available.

Update on Healthy Maine Trails: Sally gave an update on the Healthy Maine Trails bond initiative. A coalition of trails advocates is seeking to have the Governor submit a \$10 million bond package for trail construction as either a stand-alone bond item or as part of the MDOT bond on the November ballot. The money would be used for trail construction and improvements across the state with some money specifically aimed at the Down East Sunrise Trail.

Update on MDOT and DOC: David Rodrigues and Dan Stewart were unable to attend the meeting. Sally reported that MDOT and DOC have signed the trail management agreement. DOC interviewed several candidates for the Trail Manager position; they are in the final stages of making their decision. Final touches are being put on the RFP.

Discussion of Mapping: As a way to get us thinking about how to use map in ongoing trail planning and promotion, we had several speakers talk about different approaches to mapping.

Tora Johnson, Director of the GIS Service Center at UMM, talked about the new mapping and spatial analysis service available through the Center. The GIS Service Center is able to provide low cost (and some free) mapping and spatial analysis service using students at UMM. They have several printers that are available for low-cost large-format printing; they also have the capability to do digitizing; and offer training and education in GIS technology. Contact information for the GIS Center is: tjohnson@maine.edu or 255-1446.

Tom Reeves, formerly with MDOT as Chief Counsel of the Legal Department, and currently a consultant working with small nonprofits and universities, talked about a project he has been working on to use mapping as a planning tool for the Kennebec rail-trail corridor in the Augusta, Hallowell, Gardiner area. He talked about the early development of rail transportation in Maine and how railways were early promoters of intermodalism; in a way, promoting intermodal use of rail-to-trail facilities goes back to that tradition. Maps that he created for the Kennebec Rail Trail project de-emphasize roads, but include trails, natural features of the landscape, public and conserved lands, socially important community centers (such as schools) and what he called “forgotten assets” (trolley lines, disused rail and electrical rights of way, et cetera). The idea is to create a document that encourages “visionary planning” and a new mental geography that focuses on thinking of trail systems and seeing possible connections between and among trails.

Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission, talked about some of the mapping that he has been doing for the western end of the trail corridor in Hancock County. Using digital overlays of aerial photography, natural features, and tax parcels, he has created maps that can be used as tools for planning around site-specific projects such as trailhead development.

Arthur Tenan, a Cherryfield businessman, showed us a number of maps that he has been working on to highlight a recreational tourism facility that he is developing in Cherryfield.

Update on the Box Car: Julie reported that she had spoken with Bill Cherry, Betsy Fitzgerald (Machias Town Manager) and Louise West (Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce) and things are on track to restore, repaint and refurbish the box car this year. They will be restoring the box car to its original colors (green and yellow). There is a possibility of having people from the Correctional Facility help with labor, so that more money can go into materials.

Update on East Coast Greenway: Tony Barrett and Maggie Warren with the East Coast Greenway were on hand. Tony gave a very quick update on activity around the East Coast Greenway in Maine. They are currently launching a “Closing the Gaps”

campaign to focus on continued development of off-road sections of the Greenway. The Down East Sunrise Trail will be the single longest off-road section in Maine when it is built; with ultimate goal of having the entire greenway off-road from Calais to Key West. Tony offered to come back and talk to us more about the Greenway at a subsequent meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 28 at **10:00 am** (rather than our usual meeting time). We will be talking about ways to use mapping in support of the trail; and we will also be planning an event(s) around Trails Day (June 2).

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeremy Gabrielson (3/8/2007).