

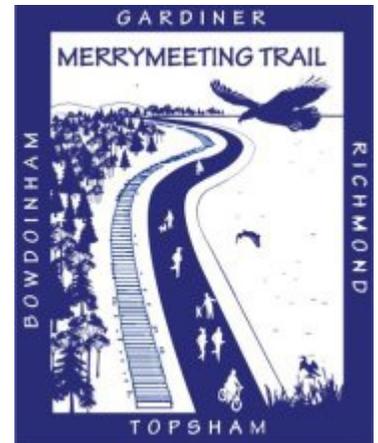
Merrymeeting Trail Committee  
Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
Meeting Notes

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

**Attending:**

Ruth Indrick, KELT; Jeremy Cluchey, Bowdoinham; Carol Eyerman, Topsham; Steve Musica, Richmond; Bill Najpauer, MCEDD; Carrie Kinne, KELT; Janet Smith, Richmond

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**Assessment of Rail and Trail**

- BN suggests RFQ instead of RFP
  - A full report answering all the questions we are asking about the trail/rail could be \$50,000 to \$60,000
  - RFQ (request for qualifications) would give us the chance to have a discussion with contractor about our goals for the project
    - we send them a cover letter and project scope, they send us their qualification and a summary of how they would approach the project
    - gives us the opportunity to have a discussion with the contractor
      - conversation will allow us to determine what we can get done with the funds we have for the project
- RI will update project scope based on comments at the meeting
- JC will write a cover letter to outline MMT project (where we are, progress, and background)
  - Once drafts of RFQ pieces are completed, will be sent to BN for suggestions
- is determined that it is important to have conversation with MDOT
  - BN will do initial outreach to MDOT, see who from MDOT will be able to attend an MMT Blazers meeting
- town of Richmond is in conversation with MDOT about removing rail trestle bridge over 24
  - there have been numerous crashes by vehicles that are too tall to fit under the bridge

**Questions**

- would towns be willing to put money in budgets for a more comprehensive report?
- who is doing the Lewiston Auburn rail study?
- how much would the cost for the trail change if we decided not to pave it?
- how have other communities addressed rail to trail as a way to do railbanking?
  - have any covered rail with fill as a part of this?
- how much use is there on the Brunswick to Portland rail line?

**Next Steps**

- After election - reach out to legislators
  - send a congratulations on election and schedule a time to meet to share information about MMT
  - need to put together list of local legislators

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**Next Merrymeeting Trail Blazers meeting: December 14<sup>nd</sup> at 9 a.m. in Topsham**

Submitted by R.I.