

Merrymeeting Trail Committee
Wednesday, April 16, 2014
Meeting Notes

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

Attending:

Tom Reeves, Richmond; Victor Langelo, Topsham; Nicole Briand, Bowdoinham; Linda Christie, Access Health; Ruth Indrick, KELT; Jeremy Cluchey, Bowdoinham; Steve Musica, Richmond; Vicky Boundy, Richmond



Review of progress toward presenting the interlocal agreement at town meetings:

- Bowdoinham – Nichole
 - The selectboard agreed to put it on the meeting warrant.
 - Approval would give the selectboard the authority to approve an interlocal agreement. Selectboard would assign 2 people to work on the agreement.
- Richmond – Nichole, Vicki, Steve
 - This was not contentious for the selectboard, and they were happy to put it on the town meeting warrant.
 - Approval would give the selectboard the authority to approve an interlocal agreement. Selectboard would assign 2 people to work on the agreement.
- Gardiner – Tom
 - Because of a current shortfall in the city budget, now is not the best time to put the agreement forward for approval.
 - Gardiner is interested in making some changes to the interlocal agreement.
- Topsham
 - Will not be putting anything about MMT on the warrant for the town meeting.
 - Will be more comfortable if Richmond and Bowdoinham receive approval at their town meetings.
 - In Topsham, the interlocal agreement will have to be approved directly at the town meeting – so they will wait to bring it up until it is in final form.
- Trail progress with or without agreement:
 - Richmond is going ahead with the village section
 - State wants the 4 towns to have an interlocal agreement before working on the connections between the towns.
 - Towns can go ahead with the inner village sections without the agreement
- Agreement progress with or without a town
 - The way it is written now, the agreement can go ahead when the four towns sign on.
 - There is a mechanism to go ahead if not all the towns are on board.

Interesting fact of the day that could be used to garner support in towns:

National Realty Association recently put out information that the #1 asset that people want to have in their communities is trails.

Possibility of trail of statewide significance classification:

- This is a flexible classification
- Agreement is that if the capital to coast corridor is completed, it will qualify

Sewall Foundation grant:

- Grant finishes in June
- Ruth will complete reporting

Brochure:

- Ruth has been sharing information with CCGIS for the brochure. They will be putting together a draft mock-up by the end of May.

Signage:

- Nichole is waiting to get the \$ value from the DOT for printing and placing the signs for the on road bike route
- MM Wheelers places 2 '3 feet for bikers' signs on Foreside road
- Victor is checking into putting signs on Foreside road in Topsham
 - It is a town road
 - Victor will seek approval from the selectboard for public works to put up the signs
- Gardiner wants the signs to get town council support before they are placed
 - Based on use of both state and town roads
- Nichole spoke with Scott Morelli (DOT) about route, and Scott approved it
 - The trail he approved has riders going on 2 town roads in Gardiner to avoid narrow sections of trail – 1 paved, 1 unpaved. The trail placement on these roads may be politically contentious, particularly on the paved road.
 - Ruth will change map for brochure to not show the interim trail on the town roads.
- Agreement is to buy the signs but not put them up until the board of supervisors meets

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next meeting: May 28, 9:00 a.m., Bowdoinham Town Office.

Submitted by R.I.

