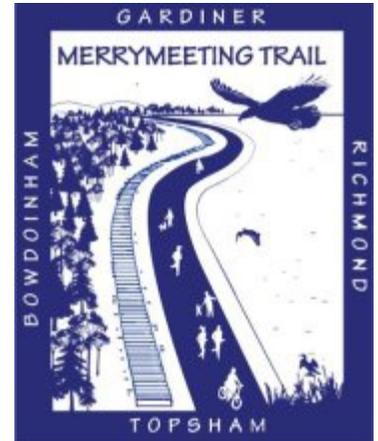


Merrymeeting Trail Committee
Wednesday, May 28, 2014
Meeting Notes

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

Attending:

Nicole Briand, Bowdoinham; Carrie Kinne, KELT; Jeremy Cluchey, Bowdoinham; Sara King, KELT; Ruth Indrick, KELT; Victor Langelo, Topsham; Bob Bruce; Andy Hendrickson, KRRT; Tom Reeves, Richmond; Linda Christie, Access Health



Board of Supervisors

- Bowdoinham and Richmond town meetings will be in June
 - Richmond town meeting is set for June 3rd
 - Bowdoinham town meeting is set for June 11th
 - Cycle Groups and KELT will ask members to attend Richmond and Bowdoinham town meetings to show support for the trail
- Gardiner and Topsham
 - they are not voting on the interlocal agreement this year. They will designate representatives to join those from Richmond and Bowdoinham in finalizing the agreement over the next year.
- Interlocal agreement format
 - currently very flexible so that there is space for problem solving as issues arrive during the functioning of the board of supervisors

Brochure

- Ruth is still working on the mock-up, waiting on pictures, working on wording
- Logos included will be MMT, Kennebec Rail Trail, KELT, BTLT, the four Trail section logos, Sewall Foundation
 - no town logos

Signage for Interim Route

- Dan Stewart approved route and sign
- DOT suggested White Signs, in Stillwater, for purchasing the signs
- Is some confusion over whether it is the responsibility of the town or the DOT to put up the signs
- Ruth will order signs before the next meeting
- The Board of Supervisors can be responsible for placing the signs

KELT Updates

- 2013-2014 Sewall round of funding is wrapping up. Funding ends at end of June
- We will hear soon about the next round of Sewall funding
- Brought up the possibility of getting an assessment of the four towns, which would feature an overview of “the good, the bad, and the ugly,” walkability, etc., focusing on the whole picture the town
 - each town probably has most of that information somewhere, so it might not be too difficult to pull together

Finance Updates

- due to changes in tif (tax increment financing) format, money from tifs on projects, like those with CMP, can be used to support trails like MMT
 - significant regional trails are valid, but local trails are not
- this is an option for towns to find money for projects going forward

Trail of Statewide Significance

- we will wait to bring this up as an option for Capital to Coast trail system until after the fall
- KRRT is willing to send letter of support for this
- would be good to get a letter of support from each town, from Augusta to Bath

Topsham Trails

- need to raise \$17,500 to finish the current section of trail that they are working on. they have all the other funding in place
- Topsham community fund was recommended
- the Highlands is interested in supporting a bridge across 196

KRRT

- This year there is a big project to replace cedar fence. They were hit hard over the winter, the ice storm created some problems
- There will be a KRRT fundraiser running race event June 22nd. So far there are 145 participants from 10 different states. They have raised \$8,700 in sponsorship
 - There is an opportunity for trail publicity at the event...

AtoK

- bridge over Old Bath Road is on the DOT's list
 - there is a meeting June 12th where it will be discussed
 - Carrie met with NOAA - initial view is that the bridge could be widened without damaging the wetlands. The project could help to eliminate invasive phragmites, so NOAA may be able to contribute funds.
 - would need to persuade DOT that it was worth widening the bridge, could bring in Bath Bike Ped Committee, Bath, West Bath, Brunswick
 - bridge is currently a frightening narrow area to ride over - see camera suggestion below for July 5th ride....

Bike Rides

- July 5th Exploratory bike ride is planned
 - goes from Gardiner to Bath, ending at Bath Heritage Days
 - there will be a bus for bikers from Bath to Gardiner at the beginning of the ride
 - Ruth will send out information so people can spread publicity
 - the idea of filming a promotional video with a camera mounted on a helmet during the ride to highlight good and difficult road sections was suggested....
- The 21st of June in waterfront Park in Gardiner there will be a table for the Kennebec River Rail Trail, is an offer for us to put MMT and C2C information on the table
 - we could use some new or old brochures
- Merrymeeting Wheelers is doing their annual around the bay ride

- Richmond Days is July 26-27 and has an antique bike parade, there could be a table there with info about MMT and C2C
- Bike Maine is September 6th and they're going down the KRRT, stopping overnight in Gardiner, and their last stop is in Bath. Perhaps set-up a table in Gardiner and Bath to inform riders that our trail would be a good ride to take next year.
- There was a suggestion for creating a 2 or 3 panel display that would be easy to pack and bring to events. Nicole has giant book of studies for route feasibility from Wright Pearce that would also be a good display to have at events.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting: June 25th at 9 a.m.

Submitted by S.K. and R.I.

