

Merrymeeting Trail Committee  
Thursday, August 26, 2015  
Meeting Notes

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

**Attending:**

Nichole Briand, Bowdoinham; Victoria Boundy, Richmond; Ruth Indrick, KELT;  
Carrie Kinne, KELT; Tom Reeves, Gardiner; Colleen Fuller, Access Health

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**Updates**

Board of Supervisors

- All four towns have approved the interlocal agreement
- KELT will write a press release about this
- Representatives will include:
  - Topsham: Victor Langelo and Bill Thompson
  - Bowdoinham: Nichole Briand and Tony Lewis
  - Richmond: Victoria Boundy and O'Neil Laplante
  - Gardiner: Tom Reeves and Richard Heath
- Meetings will need to be formally announced
- NB will email everyone to schedule the first meeting
  - first meeting will be near end of September
    - will focus on project history, updates, introduction to bylaws and how they will be crafted (possibly including some examples from other organizations)
      - TR will bring KRRT example
      - VL will bring Eastern Trail example
    - TR suggests establishing a bylaws chair
- options for future meetings
  - meeting with members of this group and BOS
  - possible joint BOS meeting of MMT and KRRT
  - presentations by representatives from other organizations to share their perspectives
    - ED of KRRT
    - Portland Trails
    - Eastern Trail
    - Alix Hopkins (active with Portland Trails and Biddeford/Saco Riverwalk)
    - format tbd, possible timing late winter, early spring

Opinion Leader Surveys

- Sarah Curran will present project results at September meeting in Topsham

Interim Route Signage

- signs will be up in the next month

Capital to Coast Bike Ride

- 24 people took part in the ride this year
- a few people had done it before, but most were new riders
- there were 3 strong riders who ended up waiting for others
  - was a bit hard to keep people together
  - fast group finished as planned in 4 hours
- for the slower group, having the option to end in Richmond worked well, faster group went on to Gardiner - was nice to have the two options
- it is worth doing again

#### Publicity

- Facebook
  - we should be posting more often, more regularly
  - quick info about interim route signage, Board of Supervisors, interviews, maps, etc. could be posted, a link sharing the final report from planning decisions when it is completed
- emails
  - quarterly
  - next one can be about signage and board of supervisors
  - a link to the email can be posted on facebook

#### KRRT Update

- a 1000ft. section of trail in Augusta, extending the end of the trail, will be constructed by Augusta next spring or early summer
  - it will be ADA accessible

#### GTTA Update

- price of construction of new section will be 900,000 (has increased from initial estimate)
- town needs 20% match, has 32,000 so far
- local resident is trying to do a challenge grant to help raise more
- construction would start next summer

#### USDOT and Bike-ped

- VL mentioned that BCM shared a blog showing info from USDOT - they gave a lot of examples of many ways to use DOT funding to support bike-ped opportunities
  - VL will share

#### Merrymeeting Wheelers

- they are coordinating the ride at Celebrate Bowdoinham, 9/12
  - there will be a 10 mile and a 20 mile option
- fall foliage ride on 10/3

#### Planning future ride

- a ride that resembles tour de merrymeeting bay? (this ride took place the 1st or 2nd weekend in August)
- shouldn't cater to the long distance riders - there are many opportunities for riders to do centuries or half century distances
- ride about scenery, history, accessible to all levels

- possible nature or history stops along the way?
  - could tie in to Swan Island (they are interested)
- have two distance options
  - make it accessible for families
  - Bath to Richmond and Bath to Bath or Richmond to Richmond(all around the bay)
- could be Sunday of Richmond Days (last Saturday in July)

#### Future Meetings

- September meeting in Topsham, September 30th
  - with Planning Decisions to focus on results of opinion leader survey
- October meeting in Gardiner, October 28th

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

**Next MMT meeting: September 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. in TOPSHAM**

Submitted by R.I.