

Merrymeeting Trail Committee
Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Meeting Notes



The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

Attending:

Tom Reeves, Gardiner; Bob Bruce, MMW; Victor Langelo, Topsham; Steve Musica, Richmond; Vicky Boundy, Richmond; Nicole Briand, Bowdoinham; Linda Christie, Access Health; Ruth Indrick, KELT; Andy Henderson, KRRT; Audra Caler-Bell, MCOG

Interlocal Agreement Discussion

Victor presented the interlocal agreement to the Topsham Selectboard

- Concerns and questions from the Selectboard:
 - worried they would be allocating some of town budget to the project
 - how will the board be set up in the agreement?
 - are other towns on board?
 - the document on its own won't pass - there needs to be an easy intro to the project for people to understand it.
- Thoughts as a result of the meeting:
 - the 1/2 page answer sheet is needed for both the town meeting and the selectboard presentations
 - it will work to present the agreement, let them think about it for a few weeks, and then go back to the next selectboard meeting to answer questions before the decision is made
 - a lot is not set up yet about the board and its function because the board will figure it out after they are formed.
 - use KRRT as an example
 - potentially have a KRRT member at the selectboard meeting?

Andy presents on KRRT experience

- is on the KRRT board of supervisors
- it took 1 year to get the interlocal agreement approved (note: there is an incorrect reference to this in minutes from last month)
- for KRRT, they had 3 city councils and 1 town
- all the town attorneys had viewed and approved the agreement before it went to the towns
- One problematic part of the agreement that he suggests against using in MMT interlocal agreement is a statement that says the project was not going to cost anything to the towns
 - towns do pay \$ now - for maintenance
 - maintenance \$ will be needed
 - Tom agrees - there could be issues later by having a statement in there that isn't true
- The KRRT board of supervisors was in place 4-5 years before construction started
- KRRT annual maintenance status
 - \$20,000 is the max annual budget - with \$4,000 max ask from each group (town, cities, friends group)
 - for the first 4 years, they only asked for \$2,000 from each - \$10,000 total for all maintenance

- this year they need more for a large fence rebuilding project
- much of the maintenance cost is for plowing
 - about \$6,000 of \$10,000 that is typically used
- they invoice each community for the \$ needed
- the City of Augusta manages the finances
- the KRRT board can't accept donations, but the friends group can
- city representatives on the board include
 - city managers, city officials, parks and rec. directors, residents

Vicky presents on status in Richmond

- are sending out packet to the town Selectboard
- they have put together language for the warrant
 - everyone agrees that this sounds great
 - Vicky will send the final version of it around

MMT

- there must be a town official of the board
- interlocal agreement is only valid if the other 3 communities sign on
- board of supervisors is needed now for decision making
- town managers and lawyers looked at the interlocal agreement a few years ago and gave it the ok
- use Vicky's wording for the warrants (with towns changed to municipalities)
- current draft of the interlocal agreement = 11/27/2012
 - Vicky will fix typos and change it from draft to final, with a January date

Language for presenting state of approval

- in Gardiner: city managers and the entire staff have reviewed the agreement, and it is acceptable to the town officials of Gardiner
- for \$ questions: Selectboard has absolute control for spending every cent
- why an interlocal agreement: identify that there is a state statute that says that if towns want to collaborate, then they should form an interlocal agreement
 - the Maine Interlocal Cooperation Act
 - this is noted in the 3rd 'Whereas' of the MMT interlocal agreement

Determining information and handouts to have about the agreement

Fact sheet:

- Tom, Victor and Nichole will work on it
 - side 1 = fact sheet about interlocal agreement
 - side 2 = what is MMT, how does it fit in the context of trails in Maine
- Nichole will email out final fact sheet next week

Bring to Selectboard meetings:

- fact sheet
- bylaws from KRRT (as example)
- ?MMT brochures

Sharing information before Town Meetings:

- Victor will put info on MMT website: meeting plans, final interlocal agreement
- put in individual town newsletters
- possibly put in times record (Nichole)
- outreach to organizations so they could share with members
 - MM Wheelers - in weekly updates

- BTLT and KELT
- Bicycle Coalition of Maine

Bring Town Meetings:

- feasibility study
- Wright Pierce print outs
- fact sheets
- ?MMT brochures

Municipal Schedules

- for Selectboard presentations, plan is to have discussion at 1st meeting, if needed, then have vote at 2nd meeting
1. Bowdoinham
 - Selectboard
 - 2/25
 - 3/11
 - Town Meeting
 - 6/11
 2. Richmond
 - Selectboard
 - 2/19
 - 3/5
 - Vicky, Steve, Nichole
 - Town Meeting
 - 6/3
 3. Topsham
 - Selectboard
 - 2/6
 - 2/20
 - Victor
 - Town Meeting
 - 5/14
 4. Gardiner
 - Tom will talk with members of the city government to let them know where we are at and when is the best time to put the interlocal agreement before the council
 - date of presentation will depend on this guidance

Other

- Outreach bike rides currently scheduled:
 - 7/5/2014 Capital to Coast Exploration Ride (Gardiner to Bath ride)
 - 9/13/2014 Celebrate Bowdoinham, 2nd Annual Celebrate Ride (loop around Bowdoinham)

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next meeting: February 12, 8:30 a.m., Bowdoinham Town Office.

Submitted by R.I.

