

**MERRYMEETING TRAIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 AT 11:00 A.M
BOWDOINHAM TOWN OFFICE**

Present:

Amanda Bunker, Wright-Pierce
Bob Bruce, Wiscasset resident
Burnham Martin, National Park Service
Linda Christie, Bowdoinham resident
Lynne Sanford, Bowdoinham resident
Nicole Briand, Bowdoinham Planner
Rich Rothe, Midcoast Council of Governments
Steve Musica, Richmond resident
Tom Reeves, Gardiner resident
Victor Langelo, Topsham resident

1. Workgroup Update

Corridor Study: Rich reported that MCOG placed a Request for Proposals for conducting a feasibility study for the Merrymeeting Trail on MaineDOT's website in early February. There were 12 firms at the bidders' conference on February 18. A total of 12 proposals were submitted to MCOG before or on February 26. A team consisting of Tom Reeves, Nicole Briand, Rod Melanson and Rich Rothe are in the process of reviewing those proposals.

Organizational Structure: Victor, Tom and Steve reported that they have examined a number of alternatives for a formal organizational structure, including the Kennebec Rail Trail and the Eastern Trail Management District. It would be desirable to have something in place by June, 2011. However, the recommended course of action would be to wait until the feasibility study is complete before proceeding further to allow the Group to focus on the study effort.

Funding:

- Rich reported that we have received the SPO Challenge Grant contract, but are still waiting for the bicycle-pedestrian contract from MaineDOT.
- Nicole reported that she has submitted a Maine Community Foundation grant application for \$10,000; awards are made at the end of March.
- Nicole also submitted a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant application for \$20,000. The Board of the fund meets on April 29 to award grants. The meeting is open to the public.

2. **Website.** Victor reported that the new website is up and running and can be found at www.merrymeetingtrail.org. A number of people commended Victor on the excellent job he did designing the website.
3. **Logo.** Amanda Bunker distributed a paper showing four draft logo ideas for consideration by the Group. The consensus was that the preferred design is the one in the upper right corner.
4. **Community Presentations.** There was a general discussion of the need to update local officials in the four communities on the status of the Merrymeeting initiative. The following people agreed

to make these presentations:

Ben Long – Bowdoinham

Victor Langelo – Topsham

Tom Reeves – Gardiner

Nicole Briand and Steve Musica – Richmond

5. **Maine Bike Rally.** Bob Bruce, from the Board of Directors of the Bike Rally, encouraged everyone to participate in the Maine Bike Rally, which will be held July 9 – 11 in Brunswick. He suggested that it would be a good opportunity to display materials highlighting the Merrymeeting Trail.
6. **Safe Routes to School.** Nicole Briand reported that grant applications under the Safe Routes to School program are due this June. These funds could be used to construct parts of the trail in the vicinity of schools.

The group agreed to meet next on April 12.