

MERRYMEETING TRAIL
3/16/09
MEETING MINUTES
TOPSHAM TOWN HALL

Present:

Bowdoinham – Tony Cox- Community & Economic Development Director, and Ben Long and Brad Foley Biking, Walking, Paddling Committee
Topsham – Rod Melanson- Town Planner, Victor Langelo- Resident,
Other - Katrina Van Dusen- Regional Planner for MCB&P, and Dave Wood- East Coast Greenway

Corridor Planning:

Rod led the group through a tour of the proposed trail route on Google Earth and identifying the possible stream crossing and wetland impacts along the rail corridor from Topsham to Gardiner.

Katrina reported that the summer intern fell through. She also reported that she is looking at a State Planning Office regional challenge grant for this project.

Tony reported that Nicole has been in touch with Rep. Berry discussing approaching MDOT regarding funds for a preliminary engineering study. He also said that Nicole would like volunteers to form a workgroup to start working on the organizational structure. Victor and Rod volunteered to be on this work group. Another work group needed is the funding workgroup. Katrina, Ben and Jeannette Macneil (Victor's wife) agreed to work on this. (Ben and Jeannette specifically on grant writing). More volunteers are needed for both workgroups.

Discussion of the National Park Service Grant:

- The group discussed the application requirements broadly and brainstormed groups that should be involved:
 - School- SAD 75 will be attending the Bowdoinham's BWPG meeting on Monday March 23rd and Brad will ask them if they are interested in participating in the NPS grant.
 - CREA - Cathance River Education Alliance – Topsham. Ben Long has agreed to touch base with Rick Wilson on this.
 - Health Organization- Access Health. Linda Christie.
 - Katrina and Ben have agreed to take the lead on the NPS application.
 - Other organizations we could partner with:
 - Topsham Conservation Commission- Carla Rensenbrink
 - Need a Richmond group
 - Gardiner – Pat Hart and Tom R. will also know of other group.

3/18/09 tc