

Merrymeeting Trail Committee
Wednesday, March 30, 2016
Meeting Notes

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

Attending:

Nichole Briand, Bowdoinham; Ruth Indrick, KELT; Tom Reeves, Gardiner;
Colleen Fuller, Access Health; Victor Langelo, Topsham; Victoria Boundy,
Richmond; Bob Bruce, Merrymeeting Wheelers, Carol Eyerma, Topsham



Planning Decisions Report:

Finalizing Report

- Sarah Curran has completed the report
- We will ask her to split it into sections so that relevant sections can be shared with key people
 - The communications assessment is more of an internal review, so it doesn't necessarily make sense to share it with survey respondents or individuals

Sharing Report

- The survey and the economic assessment are the two sections that will be most valuable to share
- They must be shared with:
 - Survey respondents
- They could be shared with:
 - DOT commissioner, bike-ped coordinator, regional planning committees, each town government, legislators, US senators and representatives
 - RI will create a list of individuals, and the decision about sending them the report will be made at a future meeting
 - ? should we share report or should we share outreach material prepared from the report?
 - Communications committee could plan/prepare outreach materials
 - This will be discussed at the next communications committee meeting

Increasing Outreach:

Mailing List

- RI will put together a list for review at a future meeting

Communications Committee

- met for the first time last month
- request for photos of MMT sections and scenery!
 - These will be used to create regular, more frequent social media posts about the project
- JC and VL will work on the new website

BOS

- This group will eventually meet with the BOS, but that will not be until at least May, possibly later

Needs

- We need to strengthen support from selectboards, legislators, and residents

Trail Updates:

Topsham (GTTA)

- Construction of the bike path this summer is still on track
 - The town has been collecting private donations that were committed
 - The town will prepare an RFP for the construction

Richmond

- VB and NB met with Patrick Adams
 - They are still waiting on an official response about the in-town trail section and the small 1/3 section of doubletrack
 - Right now, it is anticipated that the southern section of in-town trail will be on the 2017-2019 DOT work plan

Understanding relation to rail

- TR will share information about proposed train projects in Augusta and about an approved rail trail project in eastern Maine

Other trail economic studies

- RI will share other bike trail economic studies that were shared by Abby King of BCM with this committee

Bike Ride

Explore Merrymeeting Bay

- July 17th
 - Open farm day in Bowdoinham, possibly Richmond
- Victor Langelo will come up with the wording for the BCM event calendar
 - We should start publicizing the event now so that people can put it on their schedules
- Planning this ride will be the focus of the next meeting (see below)

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27th at 9am in Bowdoinham. This entire meeting will focus on planning the 2016 Explore Merrymeeting Bay Bike Ride(s)

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Submitted by R.I.