

**MERRYMEETING TRAIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011 AT 11:00AM  
BOWDOINHAM TOWN OFFICE**

Present: Jason Bird-MCOG, Burnham Martin-National Park Service, Rich Rothe-Rothe Associates, Tom Reeves-Gardiner Conservation Committee, Amanda Bunker-Wright Pierce, Steve Musica-Richmond, Bob Bruce-Merrymeeting Wheelers, Maria Tucker-Bowdoinham, Tom Doyle-Topsham Trail Riders, Victor Langelo-Greater Topsham Trail Alliance, Dave Wood-East Coast Greenway Alliance, Linda Christie-Access Heath & Bowdoinham, Lynne Sanford-Bowdoinham, Rod Melanson-Town of Topsham, Nicole Briand-Town of Bowdoinham

I. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

II. Corridor Study

1. Feasibility Study

The group discussed the Study and made the following comments:

- Is paving included in the price? The study should include a sentence or two about MDOT's philosophy regarding paving.
- A trail along the west side of the track in Topsham would allow for better connectivity to existing trails.
- There should be an acknowledgements page.
- An overview map showing the segments would be helpful.
- Discussion regarding the connections each segment makes and why segments are as described would be good.

Everyone will need to send their comments to Rod Melanson by April 13<sup>th</sup>. Rod will forward everyone's comments to VHB.

2. Feasibility Study Presentation

We will look to schedule the public meeting with Greg for the end of May or beginning of June.

3. Municipality Update

Once the presentation is scheduled, updates will be given to the municipalities.

III. Funding

1. Current Financial Status

- i. State Planning Office Regional Challenge Grant – \$20,000 - Complete
- ii. MDOT Funding - \$20,000 – This money expires June 30, 2011. The project must be complete by then.
- iii. Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund \$13,500 - Complete
- iv. Other Contributions \$5,000

2. Pending Applications

**MERRYMEETING TRAIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011 AT 11:00AM**  
**BOWDOINHAM TOWN OFFICE**

- i. Richmond's Quality Community Program Application

IV. Next Steps

1. Organizational Structure – Tom Reeves will be talking with a Maine Municipal Association attorney. The subcommittee will resume work once Tom is able to get some questions answered.
2. Public Outreach – The group discussed upcoming events in which the Merrymeeting Trail could be promoted, including:
  - Maine Bike Rally – July 8-10 in Brunswick
  - Tour Merrymeeting Bay – August
  - June 4<sup>th</sup> – Brunswick
  - Trails Day – May 15<sup>th</sup> in Topsham
  - Richmond Days – end of July
  - Celebrate Bowdoinham – September 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Communities Conference – June 21<sup>st</sup> at Bowdoin College
  - “Gardiner Days” – June
  - Topsham Fair – August
  - Run for Kennebec River Rail Trail – June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Bike Rodeo – May 21<sup>st</sup> in Brunswick and June 4<sup>th</sup> in Topsham
  - Main Hospice Event – August 27<sup>th</sup> the route will include Rt 201 and Rt 24 in Bowdoinham & Richmond

The group discussed the possibility of planning a fall event to promote the Merrymeeting Trail.

V. Other Business

The Communities grant letters intent are due in June. Is anyone applying for a segment of the Merrymeeting Trail?

We should contact the local Rotaries and Main Street programs to get them involve in the project.

- VI. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Bowdoinham Town Office.

- VII. Adjourn