

**MERRYMEETING TRAIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010 AT 11:00 A.M
BOWDOINHAM TOWN OFFICE**

Present:

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

1. Community Presentations: The following people reported on community presentations:

Nicole Briand – Bowdoinham – presentation will be tonight
Victor Langelo – Topsham – on the agenda for the first Thursday in May
Tom Reeves – Gardiner – presentation on April 7
Steve Musica – Richmond – met with Darryl Sterling and the Planning Board

2. Corridor Feasibility Study Update: Rich reported that VHB has been selected to prepare the feasibility study. MCOG has not yet received the contract from MaineDOT that would allow the study to begin. Tom Reeves suggested the study could be expedited by phasing the contract; phase 1 could be done with the challenge grant and local funds, and phase 2 could be done later with the bicycle-pedestrian grant.

3. Corridor Outreach for the Summer. There was a great deal of discussion about building public support for the trail during the summer. Ideas included:

- Municipal festivals – table, booth, brochures, maps
- Bicycle Coalition of Maine – partner with them
- Bicycle Trek – booth
- Brochures
- Website
- Town reports (we need to be careful about misinformation)
- Town newsletters
- Piggy-back with other groups (very time-consuming to do a booth)
- Bike-Ped conference (May 19)
- Facebook
- Hands-on activities like a walk along a portion of the trail

4. **Logo.** Amanda Bunker reported that the logo has not yet been finalized.
5. **Funding.** Nicole stressed the need for letters of support for the Outdoor Heritage Fund application, especially from Rep. Seth Berry and Senator Seth Goodall. Nicole reported that portions of the trail could be built using funds from MaineDOT's Quality Community Program. The application deadline will probably be in July. Funds can be used for transportation enhancements and the safe routes to school program. Tom Reeves stressed the importance of starting with small segments. Amanda Bunker reported that Richmond has been proactive in getting Community development Block Grants – maybe the CDBG program could fund a segment in Richmond. Tom Reeves stated that Dan Stewart encourages the use CDBG funds to build trails. The new federal health care legislation contains about \$6 billion in funds that will be available for trails. Amanda suggested exploring the Quality of Place program. Nicole wondered about tying funding to the base closure. Tom Reeves suggested approaching Bowdoin College through the cross-country program.
6. **Other Business**
 - Victor suggested we could start a “Friends” group. It takes about a year to do the paper work.
 - Tom Reeves suggested that we might ask a land trust to be the fiscal agent.
 - There was some discussion about asking the Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail to broaden their area of concern to include the Merrymeeting Trail. Tom Reeves said he would bring up the topic at the meeting of the Friends on April 27.

The group agreed to meet next on May 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Bowdoinham Town Office.