

**MERRYMEETING TRAIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010 AT 11:00 A.M
BOWDOINHAM TOWN OFFICE**

Present:

Amanda Bunker, Wright-Pierce
Andy Hendrickson, Kennebec River Rail Trail, Board of Supervisors
Lynne Sanford, Bowdoinham resident
Nicole Briand, Bowdoinham Planner
Rich Rothe, Midcoast Council of Governments
Steve Musica, Richmond resident
Susie Reinheimer, Bowdoinham resident
Timothy Doyle, Topsham Trail Riders
Tom Reeves, Gardiner resident
Victor Langelo, Topsham resident

1. **Corridor Feasibility Study Update:** Rich reported that since the last meeting, MCOG received the contract from MaineDOT as well as the authorization to proceed on spending funds for the feasibility study. MCOG and VHB signed the contract and VHB conducted the initial fieldwork portion of the study using MaineDOT's HyRail vehicle on April 26 and 27. The VHB team met with the Corridor Study Group in an informal session in Topsham on April 26. VHB is scheduled to meet with the Corridor Study Group at 1:30 on Tuesday, May 25 at the Topsham Town Office to present preliminary findings from feasibility study.

2. **Funding**
 - **Outdoor Heritage Grant:** Nicole reported that we were awarded a \$13,500 grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board for the feasibility study. Initially, the application scored just below the funding cut-off line. However, the Board reduced the amounts awarded to funded projects so that our project and another one (the Head of Tide Park in Topsham) could be partially funded. Nicole, Tom and Rich expressed their appreciation to Rep Seth Berry and Senator Seth Goodall for their efforts in helping secure these funds. The grant money will need to be spent by the end of November. Several members suggested waiting to hear what the consultants recommend prior to deciding how to spend the money.

 - **Maine Community Foundation:** Nicole reported that she spoke with people at the Maine Community Foundation about the unsuccessful application to fund part of the feasibility study. They indicated they would probably be more supportive of an application for setting up the organizational structure and conducting community outreach. The next grant application is due on Friday, May 14. Nicole indicated she would like to get the same letters of support as last time, hopefully by May 12.

3. **Website:** Victor reported there is now a link on the Merrymeeting website to sign up for the newsletter (Merrymeeting Trail News). So far, the only people who are signed up are Victor, Nicole and Rich.

4. **Logo:** Amanda reported making some changes to the logo which is still in the draft stage. She has been working with Nicole on a new format for the Merrymeeting pamphlet that can be used for

handouts at various events.

5. **Updates to municipalities:** Nicole reported that Ben Long made a presentation on the trail to the Bowdoinham Selectmen on April 12 which was well received. She also included an article on the Merrymeeting Trail in Bowdoinham's most recent newsletter. Victor made a similar presentation to Topsham on May 6 which was also well received.
6. **Other Business:** Tom Reeves reminded everyone that the 2010 Active Communities Conference (walking, biking, physical activity and the built environment) is taking place on May 19 at the Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch, in Auburn. While the deadline for sign-ups was May 7, anyone who is interested can probably still register if they contact MaineDOT. He also encouraged Group members to attend a poster presentation by UMA architectural students on Thursday, May 13, from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM at Gardiner City Hall. The session will include conceptual designs for a pedestrian bridge over the Kennebec River to reconnect the historic Gardiner and Randolph waterfronts. The concepts may be useful and helpful for enhancing the Merrymeeting Trail.
7. **Next Meeting:** The Group agreed that the next meeting will be **July 12**. The Group agreed to skip the June meeting because there will be a meeting with VHB on May 25 and again sometime in June.