

**MERRYMEETING TRAIL
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2009 AT 1:00 P.M.
BOWDOINHAM TOWN OFFICE**

Present: Steve Musica, Tom Reeves, Rich Rothe, Katrina Van Dusen, Lynne Sanford, Josh Platt, Victor Langelo

I. Preliminary Planning

1. Status of Workgroups

Corridor Study – This group has met and is planning on meeting again the week of July 20th. They have discussed what their plan will be, but right now they are waiting to see if we are able to obtain funding to carry out the corridor study. The initiative has applied for a Regional Challenge Grant (RCG) from the State Planning Office, which would allow us to hire professionals to carry out some of the corridor study for us and contact MDOT for additional money for a corridor study. We are hoping to know the status of the RCG by the end of this month.

Organizational Structure – This group has not met yet, but Tom, Steve and Victor exchanged contact information and will be meeting in the near future. The group agreed to research the models from the Kennebec River Rail-Trail and the Eastern Trail.

Marketing – At the last meeting the group brainstormed a lot of ideas for marketing the thought it would be a good to get the municipalities’ economic development directors involved, but an actual group as not formed. MDOT is in the process of producing an aerial map showing the corridor and is going to mount four copies (one for each municipality). The group discussed that is might be too much work at this point to take on too much of these tasks, but it would be good to get a website, create a monthly update and try to piggy back on other organizations/groups as they come (such as adding a few materials to others tables at events and getting articles in others’ newsletters). Nicole volunteered to draft a “project update bulletin” and email for the groups review. Josh volunteered to set-up a webpage for this project off of his Kennebec River Network website, as well as work on coordinating for some marketing. Nicole will contact Rod, Jason, and Darryl to check on the status of funding for creating our own website.

2. Identify Funding Sources/Ideas

- i. MDOT – We are hoping that both regional planning commissions (KVCOG and MCBDP) will include this project in their work plans, so that they will be able to have a planner work on the project. Once we hear about the status of the RCG we could apply to MDOT for additional money for the corridor study.
- ii. Regional Challenge Grant – We have submitted our application and are hoping to hear back by the end of June.
- iii. Quality of Place Grant – MCBDP was not invited to submit a full application for this grant.

II. National Park Service’s River, Trails & Conservation Assistance Grant

We are in the process of putting together our NPS grant application to submit by July 15th. As

part of the application we need support letters. Nicole volunteered to write a draft template for the municipalities and our legislatures, which she will email for the group's review. As for partners, we need support letters from project partners that details the nature of their intended involvement (for example – attend meetings, assist with project tasks, marketing, public outreach, etc.).

Project Partners-

- Bowdoinham Walking Biking Paddling Committee– *Lynne Sanford will contact this group.*
- Topsham Conservation Commission– *Nicole will contact Angela Twitchell and Carla Rensenbrick.*
- Gardiner Conservation Committee– *Tom will contact.*
- Gardiner Planning Board– *Tom will contact.*
- Midcoast Council of Business Development & Planning– *Nicole will contact.*
- Kennebec Valley Council of Governments– *Nicole will contact.*
- Kennebec Estuary Land Trust– *Nicole will contact Carrie Kinne.*
- Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust– *Nicole will contact Angela Twitchell and Carla Rensenbrick.*
- Kennebec River Network (previously Initiative) – *Josh agreed to write a support letter.*
- East Coast Greenway Alliance– *Nicole will contact Dave Wood.*
- Access Heath – *Nicole is in the process of reaching out to this organization.*
- Healthy Communities of the Capital Area– *Nicole is in the process of reaching out to this organization.*
- Cathance River Education Alliance – *Ben Long has made contact and Nicole will follow-up with Ben.*
- Bicycle Coalition of Maine – *Nicole is in the process of reaching out to this organization and will try to coordination with Dave Wood.*
- Cool Communities – *Victor will make contact.*
- Bowdoinham Area Sustainable Energy- *Nicole will try to contact.*
- Friends of Merrymeeting Bay – *Steve will try to contact.*

Elected Officials & Boards-

- Topsham Board of Selectmen – *Nicole will contact Angela Twitchell and Carla Rensenbrick.*
- Bowdoinham Board of Selectmen– *Nicole will contact BWPG.*
- Richmond Board of Selectmen– *Steve will contact.*
- Gardiner City Council– *Tom will contact.*
- Seth Berry, State Rep- Richmond, Bowdoinham– *Nicole will ask Ben Long to contact.*
- Seth Goodall, State Senator- Richmond, Bowdoinham, Topsham– *Steve will contact.*
- Steve Hanley, State Rep – Gardiner– *Tom will contact.*
- State Rep – Topsham– *Victor will try to contact.*
- Earle McCormick, State Senator - Gardiner– *Steve will contact.*

III. Next meeting

Nicole will contact the group to schedule the next meeting the week of July 13th.