

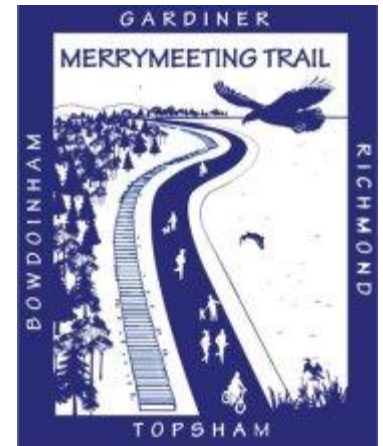
Merrymeeting Trail Committee  
Wednesday, January 25, 2017  
Meeting Notes

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

**Attending:**

Ruth Indrick, KELT; Jeremy Cluchey, Bowdoinham; Steve Musica, Richmond; Victor Langelo, Topsham; Tom Reeves, Gardiner

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**Updates and Discussions**

- The Richmond overpass train bridge will be taken down in the next year.
  - In order to reinstitute rail along this line, any new bridge put in would need to be higher to prevent the current rate of crashes that are causing it to be removed. This means significant changes to the road and/or to lengths of the rail on either side of the bridge.
- Considerations were discussed for the feasibility study.
  - Cost of fixing all bridges and rail along the rail line from Brunswick to Augusta
  - Cost of removing parking lot in Augusta
  - Input needed to bring tracks to commercial vs. passenger requirements
  - Considering technology change is important because it will help conversations with MDOT and provide new economic arguments for trail
  - Suggested individuals to contact for feasibility study guidance
    - Frank O'Hara
    - Jim Fisher
    - Muskie School
    - Firm JC has worked with in the past
- SM has been looking into the feasibility and process of covering rail. He spoke with Lionel Cayer (Augusta engineer) and rail companies.
  - train cars could move aggregate
  - there are specifications for depth of material covering the rail
  - rails are 5' apart, ties 8'6" long
  - there could be crushed gravel on top (cheaper) or an impervious surface covering the gravel
- Bowdoinham's public works facility will be moving, opening up 20 acres near the waterfront. There could be opportunities for this to be a recreation space that connects with the trail. The town committee planning for the use of this area could contact Nate Moulton (MDOT) to ask how this space could interface with the neighboring train tracks in order to help this space have the greatest benefit to the town.
- Is there a way to bring a big name business or college as our advocate?
  - A respected institution or individual
- Connecting with local legislators

- We should set a time to meet with them after they are done reviewing bills - to introduce who we are, what our vision for the trail project is, and why we care about it.

### **Funding**

- We applied for a grant from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation for trail advocacy, communication, and a feasibility study.
  - We will find out about the results of this application in May or June.
- We are interested in finding out more about the requirements and conditions connected with the DOT Planning Partnership Initiative grant.
  - RI will follow up with Hugh Cox at MDOT.
- MMT members are interested in seeing the \$ values available by fiscal year for Merrymeeting Trail
  - RI will compile financial information about money available for Merrymeeting Trailblazers and the four trail towns and what the money can be used for.
  - SM will meet with Janet Small in Richmond to identify what \$ are available.
- Other places to look for funding:
  - Topsham Development Inc.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

**Next Merrymeeting Trail Blazers meeting: April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. in Bowdoinham**

Submitted by R.I.