

Merrymeeting Trail Committee
Wednesday, June 20, 2018
Meeting Notes

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

Attending:

Lee Cataldo, BTLT; Carrie Kinne, KELT; Ruth Indrick, KELT; Victor Langelo, Topsham; Tom Reeves, Gardiner; Nichole Briand, Bowdoinham; Carol Eyeran, Topsham; Jeremy Cluchey, Bowdoinham; Theo Gardner-Puschak, Topsham/Bowdoin College; Katie Morse-Gagne, BTLT/Bowdoin College



2018 MMT Open Farm Day Tour

- Victor Langelo will lead the long ride, which will start at 10am, Ellen Call and Bob Bruce will lead the intermediate length ride, which will start at 9:30am, and Caroline Ginsberg will lead the shorter Forever Farm ride that will start at 11am.
- LC and RI will ask Bluebell farm if they will be willing to host a rest stop for the bikers with water and snacks. RI will check with Caroline about which farm makes the most sense for a rest stop on the shortest ride and ask her to connect with the farmers.
- RI will get snack supplies for the ride and contact Steve Balboni at Bath Rec about borrowing the water jugs again this year.
- RI will connect with Victor and Bob Bruce about possible updates to the liability release form for the ride.
- Nichole will have fliers for the ride and brochures for the event within the next week.
- RI will send out a press release about the ride.

Budget Review

- There is \$27,000 remaining in the budget for C2C projects.

Website Upgrade

- The Merrymeeting Trailblazer members have worked in wordpress and squarespace, but no one has worked in Drupal. There is some concern about the ability to edit the website if it is in a platform that no one but the developer knows how to edit.
- Before the next meeting, RI will edit the new wordpress site. A final decision about the website will be completed at the next meeting after the progress and website edits are evaluated.

Planning for Outreach

- A couple options for raising awareness about the trail were proposed. They included trying to get a question about trails included in the upcoming debates, connecting with channel 6 to have one of their Maine focused segments centered on trails in the southern midcoast, and developing a plan to raise awareness about how trails help to bring young people to Maine, are safe and accessible places for the elderly to walk, and are safe places for families with kids to walk or learn to bike.

- Midcoast Hospital has a physical activity group that will be good to collaborate with on trail advocacy and raising awareness about trails.
- There were suggestions to connect with the real estate community because real estate agents are already using proximity to trails to help sell houses. This could be a way to help bring Maine Chambers of Commerce on as supporters of the trail system.
- The two Bowdoin interns are available to help with some outreach. RI will connect with LC, CE, Theo, and Katie about possible projects.

Connections with BCM and Legislators

- NB or JC will connect with Seth Berry.
- TR will connect with Gay Grant and Tom Harnett of Gardiner to discuss the South Gardiner section of trail.
- VL talks with Denise Tepler regularly, will talk with Eloise Vitelli.
- VL and RI will meet with BCM to discuss options for advocacy and raising awareness for the C2C regional trail system and the value of trails. VL will send an email to connect with folks he knows at BCM.

Trail Progress and Planning

- There was an identification that C2C and A2K progress are currently in a similar position. In order to move these trail projects forward, there was a suggestion that there be a joint meeting of these two groups and a few targeted outside advisors that be led by a facilitator to strategically plan action on these trails for the next 5 years. This meeting would ideally be scheduled for this fall (Sept./Oct.).
- Some landowners along the Augusta Lower Road rail line have identified that they own property on both sides of the rail line, but they face an issue that they are trespassing if they cross the rail line to access their property on the water.

For Next Meeting

- The next meeting will focus on identifying the goals for the five year trail action plan meeting. It will include discussion about who should attend and who should facilitate this gathering. The meeting will also include reporting out about conversations with BCM and legislators as well as a final decision about the website.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Merrymeeting Trailblazers meeting: Wednesday July 18th at 9 a.m. in Bowdoinham

Submitted by R.I.