

**Merrymeeting Trail Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 27, 2017**  
**Meeting Notes**

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.

**Attending:**

Ruth Indrick, KELT; Victor Langelo, Topsham; Tom Reeves, Gardiner;  
Nichole Briand, Bowdoinham; Carrie Kinne, KELT; Maggie Warren,  
Hallowell



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**Planning MMT Update Letter to Legislators**

- We are planning to send a 1 to 1.5 page letter to legislators in our region sharing information and updates about the trail. The letter will come from both the Merrymeeting Trailblazers and the Merrymeeting Trail Board of Supervisors. As a result, Bill Thompson and Carrie Kinne will be asked to sign. Nichole will make a background timeline to include with the letter and will check to make sure that our list of supporters is up to date so this can be included as well. A brochure and sticker will also be included in the envelope. Carrie will check whether the letters should be mailed to home or State House addresses. A version of this letter will be prepared to be shared with town selectboard members. We would like to date the letter 11/1. Our next newsletter will let our supporters know that we have sent the letter to legislators.
- We will be reviewing this letter at the next meeting.

**Review of 2017 MMT Open Farm Day Tour**

- There was good turnout at the medium and long ride (at least 10 each). Only two people took part in the organized kids ride, and one family rode the children's route on their own. Having opportunities for families to organize their own kids ride seems to work. Other feedback is that it was good to have short, medium, and long routes, there was a good variety of farm types (vegetable, livestock, flower), it was nice to have the bbq at the end, and it would be easier to have two ride leaders.
- Some considerations for the future include: a guided kayak to/at the bbq, a wagon ride, an LL Bean sponsored kayak or paddleboard, consider LL Bean for a sponsor (Carrie and Nichole will check), KELT food AmeriCorps volunteer could help, consider Bath to Augusta route for a ride once road construction is done with ads from KRRT and Bath as well, family length triathlon.

**Communications**

- There were some questions about the need of a Merrymeeting Trailblazers logo because people did not want individuals to be confused by two logos for the same trail. There was discussion about how to connect two logos and if we should spend money on a logo at this time.
- There was some conversation about updating the website. Changes are needed because it is currently difficult to manage or update. Victor owns the address and currently hosts the site. We could pay for someone to build a website that is easier to update or pay for a monthly program that is easier to update.

- The next communications meeting will be focused on the website. We will plan to have a web builder at the meeting to provide input. Nichole recommends Will Zell. Carrie will contact him. Ruth will set up the meeting.

### **Planning**

- KELT will edit the scope of work. It currently looks like we need to raise about \$30,000 for the rail trail assessment. We can work off the scope Tom put together and the Downeast Sunrise trail assessment that Tom found and shared.
- Carrie will put together a budget for the next year.
- There is interest in having Burnham Martin present information about the trail to the Board of Supervisors.

### **Other Updates**

- KRRT – The Kennebec River Rail Trail will be rerouted in Hallowell during Hallowell road construction next year. The Bike Ped Committee in Hallowell is working on finding the route.
- Topsham – The new Topsham trail is doing ok. An upcoming meeting will focus on amenities for the trail. The town is also looking at connections for the trail to the Brunswick trail.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**Next Merrymeeting Trail Blazers meeting: Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in Bowdoinham**

Submitted by R.I.