

Sustain Mid-Maine
Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2009
Meeting held at KVCOG

In Attendance: Ross Nason, Jim Wood, Peter Garrett, Ann Beverage, Nancy Emery, Angela Bouchard, Chris Huck, Andrew Young, Jen Boothroyd

Jim Wood started with an introduction to the Committee for new members about the Catalyst event in January 2009 and the formation of Sustain Mid-Maine (formerly Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition) and transportation was identified as an area of concern.

Jim also updated people on the proposed public transit system for Waterville, Fairfield and Winslow. He said the best way to support that particular project is to have people contact their mayors and town managers to support the project, because it will require significant increases in financial support from the towns.

However, Jim noted, it is unadvisable at the present time to draw a large spotlight on the project (i.e. the Morning Sentinel) because the town managers and mayors still need to be presented with the plan and consultants' report and should have an opportunity to prepare responses before the public can really start asking questions.

In addition to the towns, the project will also include non-traditional partners such as Colby College, Kennebec Valley Community College, Thomas College, MaineGeneral Hospital, and other interested parties.

After discussion of the public transit system, the conversation moved to pedestrian and biking initiatives. Peter suggested that the best way to get bike and pedestrian initiatives moving, there needs to be local committees based out of each of the towns to address each individual town's needs.

The topic of a co-chair for the committee came up, and Peter Garrett passed on the position because he has too much going on at the moment. Susan Mackenzie was suggested as a possible co-chair.

Chris Huck discussed the fact that Maine DOT is doing a corridor assessment along the Kennebec from Fairfield to Gardiner and was looking for volunteers to join a steering/advisory committee for the assessment.

The group went down the list of projects identified under the Transportation Committee and identified what the committee could address and what may be outside of their ability to work on.

Of particular interest was a discussion about identifying areas of roads in the four-town area where there is the potential to add bike-friendly lanes and where there may be issues (e.g. large potholes).

Many of the projects listed, however were not seen as immediate action items that the committee could address.

One item that was of particular interest was the establishment of a park-and-ride lot, likely in Waterville, and Chris Huck said that he would get in touch with Maine DOT to see if someone could come to the next meeting to discuss the establishment of one of these lots.

The next meeting is set for August 13th at KVCOG.