

Transportation
July 29, 2010
4:00-5:30

Members Present: Chris Huck, Elery Keene, Rosemary Winslow, Peter Garret, Jim Wood, Linda Woods

Guest speaker: Jack Sutton

- President of Maine Rail Group (MRG)
- Amtrack's *Downeaster* coming to Brunswick
- Passenger service needs freight in order to be viable.
- Have rebuilt 2 main tracks off Eastern Ave. & Belgrade: indication of scope of work going on
- Passenger service needs to be door-to-door transportation and have parking.
- Jim wondered about connecting with Bangor because of population density.
- There was a committee that supported keeping the line open between Portland and Bangor. Jack has a copy of the resolution this group adopted. Waterville signed it. Recognized this as an important transportation corridor
- Strength with Bangor, Waterville, & Augusta working together
- Rosemary: A group she works with is considering adding a connection to Brewer as a tourism tool to Ellsworth and Acadia.
- Rail Diesel Car (RDC)—one car that carries passengers
- Elery wondered about piggy-back service in this area. Jack replied that there was a meeting about this. It was decided to focus on one project at a time.
- Peter wondered about Rails with Trails. Jack said he is OK with this as long as the trails don't interfere with the working railroad.

Meeting Notes

1. Jim provided an update that new buses will be delivered by the end of August. Hoping for Oct 1 start of *Kennebec Explorer*.
 - Efficient gas buses
 - Chris wondered about frequency of buses from Gardiner. This has been a spike in ridership from Gardiner.
 - Thinking of changing the frequency of buses to Togus.
 - The order for 6 new buses is on hold.
 - Peter wondered if riders are brought to the bus as opposed to driving themselves.
 - Name connects with *Island Explorer & Mountain Explorer*—leave their cars and explore the town
 - Peter thought about bus stops at trail heads.
 - Go Augusta Trolley—mid day service through town for state employees; got a lot of families & tourists
 - Part of the problem is the image attached to the buses. People think they have to be of a certain socio-economic group to ride the bus.
 - Chris suggested painting the buses a different color.

- Peter wonders what KVCOG is saying to encourage people in the rural areas to take the bus. Chris: hard to encourage development to go from rural areas to urban ones. Maybe by showing urban areas are more attractive.
 - Chris is concerned that the overall demographic does not align with the economics.
2. Jim said Penny is working on a potential park & drive off KMD.
 3. Peter distributed a map of the Kennebec Messalonskee trails.
 - Quite a few are built
 - Quarry Rd. Ski Trail—will be extended to the County Rd. maybe in 2-3 years—to Rice Rips Rd.— have an easement for this from CMP
 - to Messalonskee Stream Trail—has had so much use, they want to resurface it with a humus surface to cover the roots
 - historical signage to indicate Oakland as the axe capital, headquarters of CMP, Cascade Woolen Mill
 - trails by airport—new project by Pine Ridge Golf Course to connect with Inland Hospital—hopefully to open in October
 - trail to Head of Falls that will be indicated on a kiosk; to connect to Scott Park and then to school trails
 - Winslow is thinking of having elementary kids get off at high school and be walked to elementary school.
 - Going to recover the Benton Trail
 - Applying for funds to build a walking pathway by Quarry Rd.
 - Trail RX—working to create a legible map to hang in waiting room—hope the doctor will prescribe walking on a particular trail
 - Everyone affirmed that Peter is doing great work.
 4. Chris is working on a transportation corridor plan. Key element is to connect the development needs and the transportation needs.
 5. Elery told of Al-Cam Co. in Winslow. Making a trailer; marketing in the United State & Canada; just recognized as an outstanding new business by President Obama

The next meeting is **September 30 at 4:00 at KVCOG.**