

Transportation Meeting
May 26, 2011
3:30-5:15

Members Present: Bill Basford, Victor Cabada, Peter Garrett, Chris Huck, Elery Keene, Nate Rudy, Jack Sutton, Penny Vaillancourt, Jim Wood, Linda Woods

1. Jack Sutton (president MRG Inc.) presented a copy of a train schedule from 1947 and summarized his thoughts about passenger rail service coming to Waterville.
 - Next obvious extension is to Augusta/ Waterville
 - Hopes for serious interest from municipal leaders: if this doesn't happen, the potential for extension is doubtful.
 - Needs a forecast of ridership (*The Downeaster* exceeded expectations.)
 - A discussion followed about numbers of people who might use this service. Is there data available?
 - Mark Johnson (President of Kennebec Savings Bank) in Augusta is interested.
 - A discussion followed about who to contact about encouraging this. Central Maine Growth Council? Chamber of Commerce?
 - Penny: It's important to change behaviors to accept public transportation.
 - Jack would like a group to go to Brunswick to ride the train and have a questions & answers meeting to see if there is further interest.
 - Bill: Intermediate step to improve Concord & Greyhound bus service between Augusta & Waterville
 - Elery: Would they add just one car? Jack explained self-propelled cars.
 - Jim: Has there been a cost assessment? Jack thinks the rails are acceptable, but the "experts" want to start with rebuilding the rails (which is expensive). A discussion followed about rail conditions.
 - Peter: Resolution: Each person to start a conversation to raise awareness with others about interest in passenger rail service.
 - Elery: Why is this in the best economic interest for Waterville?
Jim: get businesses interested to see what they see as important
Bill: economic savings of reducing dependence on private cars
 - Jim: How much contingent on freight rail? Jack: not much

Action Item:
Jim: Call Kim Linlof & Peter Thompson to see if any interest with their organizations
2. Nate Rudy (representing Waterville Main St.)
 - Would like to make downtown more bicycle/pedestrian friendly
 - Presented traffic as a problem on Main St.
 - Launch education campaign to create a different culture to increase awareness of business potential of being bicycle/pedestrian friendly
 - A discussion followed about situating a platform to get onto *Kennebec Explorer* and the availability of bike racks

- Increase friendliness for people with mobility issue and strollers
- Make Main St. one way street with single lane with parallel parking and introduce a bicycle path
- Nate is working on several potential recreation activities (mountain biking, rafting, walking, etc.) to highlight Waterville. Be watching the monthly events newsletters for more specifics.
- Elery: need to change Rt. 201, so it doesn't go through downtown
- Bill: Rts.104 & 137 also go down Main St.
- A discussion followed about the location of a potential bus terminal.
- WMSt. will be putting bike racks around downtown this summer.
- Nate would like people to talk to others about encouraging bicycles/pedestrian friendly changes.
- Victor: the diagonal parking is dangerous for bikers. He'd like to see this eliminated, and a bike lane created. He also concerned about the speed people drive on Main St.
- Nate: What is it we need to change structurally to make Waterville more bicycles/pedestrian friendly?
- Jim: need to change the culture

3. Other Updates:

- Penny: MDOT hired a person to do an appraisal on property for the Park & Ride. She has the approval and the funds to begin the conversation with land owner.
- Peter: A walk is scheduled at various trails during the week. These are free and open to the public. FMI: Check kmtrails.org
- June 4 @ 9 AM National Trail Day in Winslow (More info on this will come from Linda with the June Events.)
- Jim: *Kennebec Explorer* had over 4,000 riders in April.
- Chris: KVCOG has a report coming on transportation issues between corridor towns. He told of several local changes that are being discussed.
- Linda asked about the bike map. Peter is gathering a committee to work on this.
- Victor: a representative from Bike Coalition offered to survey the area

The next meeting will be **Thursday, June 23 at 3:30 at KVCOG.**