

Transportation
June 23, 2011
3:30- 5:00

Members Present: Peter Garrett, Joel Greenwood, Chris Huck, Elery Keene, Jim Wood, Linda Woods

Elery talked about his concerns about wireless Smart meters.

Peter & Joel reported on the Active Communities Conference they attended recently. The main points of the key note speaker:

- Youngsters are no longer “free-range.” Instead the norm is for youngsters to belong to a certain activity with same age, same sex individuals supervised by an adult and transported by an adult.
- So many things people do are considered battles. The focus should be on “winning the war.” By that, he meant that everything has to move by motor vehicle. There are other ways to design development that would support walking and biking.
- We need to deal at the level of ordinances & plans and insist that this will be build/modified in such a way to make it bicycle/pedestrian friendly.
- People who use public transportation walk more.
- Inactivity & insufficient diet will soon overtake tobacco as the leading cause of premature death.
- 30 min average daily activity is considered minimum; 25 % American adults meet this; 365,000 premature deaths due to not meeting this level of activity

Action Item:

Everyone: Peter suggested each of us do a walking audit around town. Rate each section after completing it. Not just from our point of view: think from the perspective of a 7 year old & a 70 years old. How might we rearrange access to make it easier to walk & bike?

Highlights of the discussion that followed:

- Even though the Kennebec Messalonskee Trail (KMT) system is great, we can't yet be proud of trail system because most people have to drive to access the trails.
- Elery spoke of a meeting that Chris attended. Winslow is considering developing a walking/bicycle path parallel & near Bay Street.
- Jim: suggested a promotional activity to connect trails to the bus schedule/ identify the stopping points as trail connections/ have a paragraph about each trail as a side bar in the bus schedule/ include the ability to bring a bike on the bus
- Peter explained the Winslow “Safe Route to School” program using the trails.
- Built several miles of trail that are accessible to wheel chairs/ hoping to have access for wheelchairs on Benton Trail
- Quarry Rd to Head of Falls is handicapped accessible.
- The *Kennebec Explorer* averages 200 lift boardings a month.

A discussion followed about creating a co-beneficial promotional flyer.

Action Items:

Peter: add wheel chair accessibility of bus to KMT web site

Jim: add KMT trails to *Kennebec Explorer* web site

Peter distributed a flyer about guided trail walks hosted by KMT. He requested that we hang these flyers in public places.

- Participation has increased as the weather has improved.

Peter & Linda are working on Waterville Family Fun Day planned for August 13

- North St. Recreational Area & other locations
- Bike, mountain hike, canoe, walk, visit gardens, information
- Jim is trying to recruit driver for this event.

KMT will soon have signs indicating the Waterville Connector Trail—mostly on sidewalks from North St by Thayer to the Head of Falls.

Action Item:

Everyone: Check maintrailfinder.org web site to learn more about not only Waterville area trails, but other trails as well.

Jim: *Explorer* program continues to do well

Chris: still actively be negotiating the Park & Ride

Linda: Waterville Main St. has installed bike racks at various locations downtown.

The next meeting will be held **Thursday, September 22 at 3:30 at KVCOG** unless otherwise notified. Chris suggested looking at the Action Plan that was developed at the annual meeting.