

Transportation
May 23, 2013
4:00-5:30

Members Present: Peter Garrett, Joel Greenwood, Chris Huck, Jack Sutton, Jim Wood, Linda Woods

Peter said the Active Communities Conference on May 7 was well attended. People were impressed by Waterville. Active Communities Environment Committees exist in many communities, including Waterville.

Peter reported for **Kennebec Messalonskee Trails**. The East Kennebec soon will have a rail trail from Winslow to connect the existing Rotary Trail in Benton. Madison Paper donated approximately 40 acres to KMT. This includes the piers in the Kennebec. Hydro Kennebec volunteered to build a trail around their dam.

Peter invited everyone to walk this trail **on June 1. Meet at 9:30** at former Scott Paper parking lot by the Winslow Elementary School.

If anyone knows of an unused rail bridge to cross the Kennebec, contact Peter.

Action Items:

Jack: find out when the rail line in Benton was discontinued

Peter: talk to Bill Mayo (maybe)

Linda: find out who is in charge of the Huhtamaki wellness program

The DoC recommended that KMT reapply for funding, and they scored high because of the 3 town connection. Funds would be used to resurface the Oakland Trail.

Coming soon: KMT has funds to create a wheelchair accessible entrance in Benton and working with Waterville to make a topographical trail map.

Scott, Peter & Others are working to add **bike/ped items** to the Waterville Comprehensive Plans.

Jack wondered if there would be any reference **about rail** in this comprehensive plan. Augusta has quite a bit of land by former Statler Paper. Jack thinks this would be an ideal place for a transportation hub.

Jack summarized that the Brunswick layover station truncates the use of the line there, as opposed to coming the rest of the way. Work is going on in Lewiston/Auburn & beyond to establish passenger rail service. Need a counter balancing interest from Augusta-Waterville to make something of consequence happen.

Jim is getting ready to do **revision of the bus schedules** with expanded hours (6AM-8PM) once the new hospital is opened. He distributed schedules for the Somerset Explorer's summer bus program. This is part of the Move More Kids Program, but it is available to all residents. People under 18 ride for free. Jim hopes this will operate year

round. Skowhegan, Madison, Anson, Norridgewock town managers and more are very supportive.

Next objectives: connection between Skowhegan & Waterville & getting more buses
Jack said that Belgrade is undergoing revision of its comprehensive plan. Should KVCAP buses be added to this?

Jim summarized **the major changes KVCAP** is required to make because of new federal guidelines. At this point there is nothing this team can do to help with this. Jim will keep us posted. Joel reiterated the importance of public transit being included in comprehensive planning. There is a big need more commuter transit.

At the next 350 Central Maine meeting, Rosemary Winslow will be speaking about how to approach local municipalities with important concerns. This meeting is Sunday, June 2 at 11:15 upstairs at the Universalist Unitarian Church.

Action Items:

Jim: Send Linda the copy of your testimony

Linda: Forward this to all Transportation Team members

Everyone: Advocate with local & state officials for more funding for public transit by contacting Susan Collins, Angus King, and your on state senator & representative.

(Contact info is available on the state of Maine web site.)

Jim: Contact Bill for some data

Peter: Remind Scott to attend

The next meeting will be **Thursday, June 20 at 4:00 on KVCOG.**