

Transportation

November 21, 2013

4:00

Members Present: Peter Garrett (SMMC, ACE, Kennebec Messalonskee Trails), Joel Greenwood (SMMC), Chris Huck (SMMC), Elery Keene (SMMC Board of Directors), John Lombardi (Waterville Public Works), Fran Mullin (United Way of Mid-Maine/CTG Central Public Health District), Jennifer Olsen (Waterville Main Street), Gi Reed (Hall School teacher), Ellen Wells (Inland Hospital, KMT), Darcy Whittemore (Bicycle Coalition of Maine), Angela Wight (Healthy Northern Kennebec, RALA), Scott Workman (ACE, SMMC), Jim Wood (SMMC), Linda Woods (SMMC)

This was an introductory meeting of Active Community Environment (ACE) and Sustain Mid Maine Coalition's Transportation Team (SMMC) coming together for the first time. The goal was to bring the various groups together: Sustain Mid Maine Coalition, Active Community Environment, Waterville Main Street (WMSt.), Kennebec Messalonskee Trails (KMT), hospitals, schools, others.

(Linda's note: I tried to group the minutes topically as opposed to chronologically.)

Jim started with a summary of Sustain Mid Maine Coalition's Transportation Team activities.

SMMC hopes to Partner with WMSt to assist with the design for the new walkway and gardens for the Hathaway.

Jim distributed the new schedule for the *Kennebec Explorer*. www.kennebecexplorer.com has the new schedule as well. The long range goal is to tie all the *Explorer* buses throughout Maine.

Jim said federal law is requiring safety assessments for bus stops. He is trying to change the image of public transit. He told the struggle to put up bus signs at bus stops. He would like to put a bus stop with a shelter on the Concourse side of Silver Street Extension.

There was a discussion about the feasibility of linking the Colby Jitney with the *Kennebec Explorer* and other transits systems.

Chris distributed a new *Explore Maine by Bike* brochure that DOT created.

Scott summarized the Active Community Environment (ACE) activities. Fran distributed the Active Community Environment philosophy.

Joel summarized his work with policy recommendations submitted to various municipal councils for comprehensive planning in the area.

Peter showed the newest Kennebec Messalonskee Trails map. There is a network of trails behind Inland Hospital, near Colby, and at Quarry Rd. They are working on a trail from the Two Cent Bridge to the Rotary Trail in Benton to Mill Island Park in Fairfield. There is a total of 35 miles of trail currently.

- Can Waterville Walks & Move More Trails be included in KMT map?
- Identify trail heads on next bus schedule

- Jim will begin tracking the use of the bike rack on buses.

Angela summarized Rural Active Living Assessments (RALA). Waterville's needs to be redone as a City over 10,000. This assesses the physical environment features & amenities, town characteristics, community programs, & policies that effect physical activities. Bikeability will be added to the next assessment.

Gi recently held a "Walk to School" program. She summarized "Walk to School" inventory that will be going in school's newsletter. It is a 2 page questionnaire. The info goes to National Center for Safe Routes to school. Free tabulation creates a report for the school that looks at the barriers for kids walking/biking to school. This committee could use the info to talk to the City Council or comprehensive planners, etc.

GIS mapping could layer these parts (trails, bike routes, schools, etc) together. This would help to identify the priority areas. School systems should have this data because this is how they set up their bus routes.

Consider inviting Richard Vigue (AOS transportation director) to the next meeting.

Peter & Scott are accumulating data on GIS that highlights areas that are unsafe; sidewalk improvement areas; places for flashing beacons; more.

Action Items:

Everyone: Send suggestions to Peter or Scott.

Scott: Send what you have to Joel

Jim: Send bus stops to Scott

John & Scott explained "Sharrow," paint on a roadway that indicates a bike lane. Thanks to Fran, here is a kind of funny description of what a "Sharrow" is: <http://youtu.be/Figz4B7NNWU>

There are a lot of bike routes in the larger area. KVCOG has made a proposal to DOT for a regional way bike plan. It targets areas with gaps in the network, specifically along Kennebec and identifies future off- road bike trails from Gardiner to Jackman. There is a mountain bike trail in Piscataquis County.

It was decided that this combined group needs to meet every other month. They will meet together again on **Thursday, February 27 at 4:00 at KVCOG.**

The next SMMC Transportation Team meeting will be **Thursday, January 16 at 4:00 at KVCOG.**

The next ACE meeting will be **Thursday, January 16 from 4:30 to 5:30 at Selah Tea (177 Main St.).**