

Transportation

February 27, 2014

4:00

Members Present: Peter Garrett (SMMC, ACE, Kennebec Messalonskee Trails), Joel Greenwood (SMMC), Laura Howell (Inland Hospital), Chris Huck (SMMC), Fran Mullin (United Way of Mid-Maine/CTG Central Public Health District), Jen Olsen (Waterville Main Street), Gi Reed (Hall School teacher), Darcy Whitemore (Bicycle Coalition of Maine), Angela Wight (Healthy Northern Kennebec, RALA), Jim Wood (SMMC), Linda Woods (SMMC)

Peter:

- Met with Waterville Planning Board (Scott is now a member of this Board) to present the new bike map
- Will be attending the Bicycle Summit in Washington, D.C. to learn more about Complete Streets (AKA Safe Streets)
- Revealed the new Kennebec Messalonskee Trails Guide map; coming in the next month; will ask for a \$3.00 donation to receive a map; available in doctors' offices, banks, stores, Chamber, etc
- Action Item: Send Peter Laura Guite's contact information (cable access TV)

Fran:

- People for Bikes Grant: enhancing Quarry Rd for novice bikers, striping a bike lane down First Rangeway
- Working on Spring St. Pedestrian Connector
- Sustaining the movement to build a plan to work together to influence area policy
- National Parks Service grant provides assistance in planning

Darcy:

- Several area schools (Hall School, RSU #18, Vassalboro) received mini-grants to do safe-routes to school
- Has an annual report of programs (Contact her if you are interested in obtaining one.)
- The National Center of Safe Routes to School did a study from 2007-12 that saw an increase in walking to and from school, especially low-income schools
- Newsletter coming in mid-March

Jim:

- *The Explorer* ridership is growing; the bike rack frequently used in summer; will be adding a column to report bike use to next annual report
- Commuter routes between Waterville & Augusta (primarily for hospitals) has reached capacity
- Collaborating with KVCC to expand services to Hinckley campus
- Skowhegan is getting bus shelters built by UTC; hoping to add these in Waterville
- Trying to mainstream bus use
- Still struggling with MaineCare transportation

Laura:

- Women's Wellness on April 5 at Thomas College
- Working with Let's Go; interested in free activities
- Received a donation from Cliff bars

Gi:

- 60 kids after doing after school activity program (sports skills)
- Spring Walk & Roll on May 9 (kids walk from high school to Hall School); 35 bike helmets were donated by DOT and Bicycle Coalition; t-shirts
- Almost 100 kids, teachers, parents participated in October Walk & Roll
- Close to 60 parents replied to a survey. Many said they do not feel safe letting their kids walk to school either because of traffic or "unknown" people in neighborhood. These will be sent to the National Safe Routes to School that will create a document of this.
- Gi will be participating in Pedal the Waterways, a week-long bike ride around Maine.

Jennifer

- Farmers Market might be relocated to Head of Falls.
- Hosting downtown conference on May 2; register through Maine Downtown Center <mdf.org>
- Having a walking audit with City Councilors is a good idea
- working on Spring St. Connector (intersection that divides Main St. from Water St.) not pedestrian friendly
- Reimagining Arts Fest (week of July 12): MIFF, Downtown Art Show, Colby event

Linda:

- Climate Solutions Expo at the Augusta Civic Center on March 12 from 9:00 to 5:00; 70+ exhibitors
- Climate Solutions Summit (same date, place, time) register \$25 (includes lunch); participate in a visioning
- FMI or to register: <http://climatesolutionsme.org/>

Joel:

- Fairfield Comprehensive plan first draft almost ready
- Pittsfield is working on a bike/ped plan for town

Angela:

- Assisting with Rural Active Living Assessment
- Looking at policies for bike/ped use; bikeability & walkability
- Waterville & Fairfield need to be completed
- Contact her if you would like to know about your town awight@healthynorthernkennebec.org
- Action Item: Angela send Oakland & Winslow details to Peter
- Increase tobacco-free communities; reduce tobacco litter; will help businesses with tobacco-free policies

Chris

- Regional bicycle trail plan; link up & create a bike trail length of Kennebec River
- If you would like a copy, contact Chris chuck@kvcog.org
- DOT & recreational people discussing Bike the Maine Woods (Cross-country bike trail from Rangeley to beyond Baxter State Park)
- Action Item: Chris: Send an electronic copy of "Kennebec Valley Bicycle Trail Planning" to Fran

Key Priorities of Working Together:

- It was agreed to merge the SMMC's Transportation Team & ACE and meet quarterly to share progress.
- Goal: Have this group recognized by City of Waterville as an advocacy group
- Invite City people (Ann Beverage, Matt Skehan, John Lombardi, others) and other organizations to become involved with this group
- Support each other's initiatives, esp for grants
- Education for each other & City Councilors
- Meet with City Council once a year

The next meeting of this combined group will be **Thursday, May 29** at **4:00** at **KVCOG**.
Thanks, Peter, for volunteering to take notes.