

## Transportation & Active Communities Environment

August 21, 2014

4:00

**Members:** Peter Garrett, Chris Huck, Elery Keene, John Lombardi, Fran Mullen, Gi Reed, Steve Robe, Ellen Wells, Angela White, Darcy Whittemore, Rosemary Winslow, Jim Wood, Linda Woods

- Gi & Darcy are working on Safe Routes to School. Walktober will potentially be the pilot program.
- trying to get more kids to walk to school; using a 1 mile radius;
- maybe once a week "Footloose Fridays";
- working with Rosemary to get a map to plot who lives where;
- hoping for volunteer adults to meet kids;
- need to contact police & transportation director;
- will be holding 2 remote location events: bus to high school walk to Hall School.

Peter recommends *Spark*, a book by John Ratey about a school that began an exercise program and saw a spike in test scores. Peter has been discussing a Safe Route to School program with Winslow administrators & board members. There are a lot of kids living right near the school, but there are some woods in the way. The owner of the woods is very agreeable to putting a safe walkway through this area.

Elery distributed a handout about concerns about safety surrounding oil trains that pass through this area. The condition of the rails is part of the issue. 350 Maine has provided leadership on this issue. We need nation-wide solutions for this problem. Suggestions: different cars ASAP & upgraded rails

### Action Item:

Elery: Send Linda an electronic copy to include with the minutes

Linda: Include the date of 350 Central Maine

Chris presented an update on the regional bike plan for Kennebec & Somerset region. He has met with multiple groups & individuals. He also drove and walked a lot of miles. (The bike plan was attached to the agenda for this meeting. If you need a copy, contact Chris [chuck@kvcog.org](mailto:chuck@kvcog.org).)

- Goal: to develop a bikeway that goes the length of the Kennebec River;
- Chris is looking for feedback on this proposal.
- Fran offered to connect Chris to some DOT people.
- Next step: put it on the map & signage;
- easy enough to be implemented; KVCOG can carry it forward;
- needs funding;
- looking to develop a logo that can be utilized by a variety of purposes

John generated an RFP for the intersection of Bridge St. to Main St in Waterville by the Hathaway.  
(Maybe a bridge over for pedestrians)

Ellen reported that Darcy sent information about an opportunity to get rapid flashings lights from MDOT for crosswalk markers. John has 2 sets to be used for intersections that do not have walk buttons. One will go by Selah Tea, for sure. Consensus seems to be for the second one to go Temple St to Front St. by Head of Falls. If there is enough money, other possibilities are by Barrels Market or Spring St to Silver St. John will put in a work order on Friday (8/22).

Action Item:

John: Contact MDOT to see if more are available (Update: John reported that no more free lights are available.)

John: Put this on Facebook & try to get it in *The Sentinel*

Jim reported that the MaineCare brokerage program that was implemented on August 1 is going smoother than expected. The new broker for Kennebec & Somerset is through Penquis CAP with KVCAP as a sub-contractor. It returns the flexibility that was lost. They make 1100 trips a day. Penquis CAP's marketing people are working on how to let people know. So far, only one letter went out from DHHS.

Jim reported that the *Kennebec Explorer* reached an all-time high with ridership at 82,000 so far in 2014.

If there are any issues that relate to this team's interests to bring before the legislature, now is the time to act. Elery as part of the Public Policy Team will help find a sponsor if necessary.

This group has become a solid forum for information sharing and acknowledging successes. A discussion occurred about putting together a presentation for area City and Town Councils. Rosemary pointed out there has been a lot of recent changes in personnel with more to come. She thinks a presentation would be welcome, especially in the fall for Waterville. A lot of collaboration goes on in the area. Chris suggested it would be better to have a focused interest rather than something this broad. It might be nice to show photos of our successes and do a 10 minute presentation. John said bike/ped concerns are part of current decisions. Waterville City Council meetings are the first & third Tuesdays at 7:00.

Subject: Safe & Active Transportation (topics: Safe Route to School, Mayflower Hill bike corridor in the works, transit expansion, Thursday night bike rides)

Tentative date: October 16

Action Items:

Each: Highlight your specific discipline and its successes & bring to next meeting; keep the focus on safe transportation, esp by bike/ped

Fran: Contact Scott to see if he would be the speaker

Gi: Send pictures

Rural Active Living Assessment (RALA) for Fairfield is done, but the town and policy assessments are not complete. Waterville needs to have its RALA redone.

Action Item:

Angela: Send Rosemary a message to remind her

The next meeting of this combined group will be at **Thursday, October 2** at **4:00** at **KVCOG**.