

STAR Center

9/9/2010 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Ellsworth City Hall

Attending: Michele Gagnon, Jef Fitzgerald, Michelle Sumpter, Tom Testa, Charlie Corliss, Sally Jacobs, Janet Toth, Jim Fisher

Updates

Downeast Heritage Rail

- Train is in operation
- Ridership has been good – (no numbers provided)
- Four trips each weekend: 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM Saturday and Sunday
- Current run takes 1:30 start to finish
- The extended run to Green Lake will take 1:45
- Stop and flag at intersections and Ellsworth High School – no problems have been reported
- Operating to the weekend following Columbus Day
- Starting Memorial Day weekend in 2011

Sunrise Trail

- Completing final clean up
 - Weekend use is OK now
 - Should be completed in advance of the September 21st grand opening
- There may be \$500,000 - \$600,000 remaining in account
 - dedicated to completing the 2 mile section between High Street and Washington Junction
 - Dan Stewart hopes to initiate the design process in late September or early October

• Grand Opening

September 21st 10:00 AM

Commissioners from DOC and DOT

Tent and Refreshments

Clubs attending and setting-up Information tables

Event signage

- Permanent Road signs
 - Not decided
 - Will be critical to have signage directing people to Washington Junction until the STAR center or some other High Street facility has been built.

Chamber of Commerce

- This has been a very big summer
- July visitation 1,400 visitors in approximately 3 weeks
- Averaging 70 vehicles per day
- Length of visit for many has been 1 hour as they search for hotel rooms.

Practice Presentation for the September 15, 2010 6:30 PM Public Meeting

Sections

- Overview
- Methodology
- Estimating Demand
- Space Requirements
- Location Alternatives
- Preferred Location
- Conceptual Site Plan

Conceptual Plan

Group reviewed Coplon Associates design and made a number of suggestions

- Move platform to the tracks
- Divert walking trail behind the platform
- Divert ATV trail around perimeter of the parking lot
- Create right of way for roads to adjacent properties
- Position trees so that the facility is visible to High Street
 - Use trees to frame the view of the building
- Move ATV and snowmobile parking closer to the large vehicle parking and unloading area
- Screen Merrill Furniture building
- Consider orientation and shape of building
- Consider orientation of parking lanes to make building more visible

Next Steps

- Preparing for September 15 6:30 PM Public Meeting
 - Michele – contacting abutters to learn about their attitudes about access and sale of some land
 - Coplon Associates revising conceptual plan
 - HCPC updating power point presentation
- Preparing for September 21 10:00 AM Sunrise Trail Inauguration
 - Sally, Jim and Charlie working on various publicity and logistical decisions
 - Encouraging everyone to attend. Bring a bike, atv, horse, sneakers