

**STAR Center**  
**11/16/2009**  
**Minutes**

**Attending:** Michele Gagnon, Sally Jacobs, David Baldwin, Tom Testa, Bruce Mattson, Jef Fitzgerald, Jim Fisher, Sam Coplton, Fred Michaud, Charlie Corliss, Janet Toth

**Introductions**

**Summary of last meeting**

- Discussion of demand estimation  
How many seats on the train?
- Parking requirement in Ellsworth  
Ellsworth requires .25 parking spaces per seat
- New ordinance will set min and max for parking  
RV assumption – reduce the number of vehicles – assume people will leave their RV's other places
- Need to consider people who stop on their way through with everything.  
Unisex bathrooms

**Sam Coplton**

- Met with Tom Testa and Tom Crikelair two weeks ago
- Discussed issues important to Downeast Heritage Rail

Visibility for this facility will be very important

Discussion of sites

Considered a number of properties

- Corner of Main and High – Lucky Mar Lot
- Jones Real Estate
- Irving Lot
- MCF Office
- Blue Seal Feed - Merrill Property – is being redesigned now
- Property across from tracks from Blue Seal Feed – possible swing parking space
- Back lots behind High Street
- Shaw's Area – across High Street

Traffic impacts – Bruce Mattson and Fred Michaud

- Traffic movement permits – required if more than 100 vehicle trips occur during the peak time segment

- Need to nail down when that peak occurs

### **Site Considerations in Ellsworth**

Fuel needs for ATV and Snowmobile trail users

- Current fuel stations close to trail include Franklin, Harrington, Machias, East Machias
- Closest stations in Ellsworth require crossing High Street

Look for the larger use / anchor for the site

- Identify ancillary uses

Develop Alternatives

### **Establish Selection Criteria**

- Cost
- Visibility
- Space Availability
- Environmental permits
- Access
- Traffic permits
- Synergy of uses
- Quality of life impacts
  - Signature use
  - Splash
- Sustainability

### **Updates**

Sunrise Trail

- Finishing up section from Machias to Jonesboro
- Schoodic Bog
  - Have to get a wetland permit to raise level of rail bed
- Planning to use entire 85 miles for winter use
- Target is to have the entire trail open by September, 2009
- Question about hunting from tracks

Rail

- Working on rehabilitating cars
- Working on finding a place for ticket sales

### **MaineDOT**

- Interconnections – paves shoulders are available on the periphery
- Downtown Ellsworth is shared use
- Bold Coast Scenic Byway

## **Ellsworth**

- Met with Joel Kittredge
  - Pushing for a six foot chain link fence
  - Michele reiterated security concerns about having the fence
    - Concerned about impact on quality of life
    - Safescape considerations
  - Fred noted that funding can be jeopardized if the design is not completed soon
  - Fred is will follow up with colleagues at MaineDOT
- There will be a public hearing for the current design on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM in Ellsworth City Hall

## **Business Plan**

- Basic need to devise a sustainable facility
- Jim and Janet met to consider ways to tie programs together
  - Meet with businesses to find out how they would participate
- Trail sustainability
  - Partnerships with clubs
  - MaineDOT support
  - MaineDOC support
- Retail Co-location
- Transportation TIF
- Local Option taxes – not in Maine