

STAR
12/10/2008
Minutes

Attending: Paul Murphy, Mickie Sumpter, Bill Ceckler, Charlie Corliss, Jef Fitzgerald, Gary Briggs, Jim Fisher

Recap of last meeting

Maps from recent Regional Planning Summit Charrette (we didn't have time to discuss these, but may come back to this.)

Updates

Downeast Rail – Gary Briggs

- Put equipment into storage
- Winterized the rail equipment
- Cleaning up the yard
- Will start up in the spring – after the snow melts
- Quarterly newsletter – next one February
- Board meetings through the winter – conference call
- Plan to offer service – Washington Junction – Sunrise Trail
- Gary has taken a new job that will affect his availability for meetings

Sunrise Trail – Bill Ceckler

- 49 Miles of Rail removed (50 with siding)
- 32 miles are nearly completed – Whitneyville to Ayers Junction
- Plan to have all the bridges repaired by the end of the month
- Tracks are up through Harrington
- 72 foot gap opened up Machias – East Machias – need to put in a new 16 foot box culvert
- Four clubs have applied for municipal grants for trail grooming
- Plowing parking lots – a significant expense
- Working until the weather blocks progress
- Installing sign-posts along the sections where it opens this winter
- Spring plans
 - Remove rails starting in Harrington and Washington Junction and meet in the middle
 - Complete by next December
- Met with Ellsworth Snowmobile Club and Acadia Area ATV Club – interested in grooming
- Planning a winter / early spring newsletter
 - Winter activities
 - Business features

Ellsworth – Jef

- Received MaineDOT preliminary engineering on the web for comment
- Fence is included for rail/trail separation

- Some trail/rail crossings may be called for in the plan
- Need to press MaineDOT to keep moving on this

Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce: Mickie Sumpter

- Working with DART to check on options
- DART might also use space in the STAR Facility
 - Might put a regional information center in addition to the Ellsworth Chamber
- Jim VanLune owns property in area of interest. Matt VanLune is taking over for his father.

Acadia Gateway Center

- Bid this winter
- Ground breaking spring 2009
- Occupancy spring 2010

DTI - Paul Murphy

- Island Explorer – record year
- Cruise ships putting a strain on the bus system
- Year round service – very successful on the Bar Harbor corridor
 - FTA – Jobs Access Reverse Commute
 - Matching contributions from Jackson Laboratory
 - Seven daily trips between Ellsworth and Bar Harbor daily
 - May add another trip
 - Round trip \$5
 - Subscription \$14.50 per week
- Space requirements
 - Currently have cars parking behind Mardens for the Bar Harbor run
 - Park – and – ride is primarily on weekdays
 - Extending Island Explorer service to Ellsworth
 - Funding requirements –
- Parking requirements – tour of other intermodal facilities
- Stormwater management – retention ponds

Feasibility Analysis

- Contracting is still in limbo for the STAR Feasibility Study
- Dan Stewart has indicated that the project should survive cuts at MaineDOT, but contracting is slowing down.

Jim Showed additional examples of multimodal centers, indicating some of their space and facilities requirements.

- Portland Rail Station
- Kennebunk Rail Center
- Utica, NY rail project
- Newport, ME trailhead for Multiuse Trail

Next Meeting: January 14th 9:00 AM HCPC (recommend postponement)