

Governance and Public Outreach Meeting

08/23/05

Minutes

Attending: Stephanie Clement, Jim Fisher, Judy East, Barbara Drisko, Steve Walton, Michele Gagnon, John Titus

Role

- Determines the structure of overall trail regulation as well as day-today management responsibilities once a trail section is constructed.
- Develops a process of presenting the recommendations of the Trail Management Plan to the public and receiving public input.
- Defines the relationship between the trail governance structure and the municipalities it passes through and suggests appropriate coordinating agreements.
- Determines appropriate insurance and liability protection needed for organizations involved in trail management and maintenance.
- Determines a name or a means to arrive at a name for the trail.

Tasks for this meeting

1. What questions do we need to answer?
2. What resources do we need to answer these questions? (think information, key people, organizations, etc.) Should these people be committee members or make a one time presentation?
3. Identify two or three biggest questions
4. Answer the questions as time permits

Discussion

Barbara - Are there regions to bring clusters of towns together?

Steve - What is the umbrella organization? Individual towns might join the umbrella organization

- 3 towns Hancock County
- 9 towns Washington County
- 2 counties
- 1 state
- Clubs

Cities as Primary organizing territory?

What responsibilities ultimately rest with the state as owner?

Can we form an Eastern Maine Trail Management authority?

What is the structure of overall trail regulation?

Town's capacity to do work? Can the towns take a hands off position?

How do we coordinate/collaborate with ATV and Snowmobile Trail Associations with the Authority?

Regulatory Questions

- Insurance and liability
- Working with abutters
- Control of Noise
- Safety and emergency response
- Managing ATVs

Resource: FOA - has created MOUs for management

Get models/MOU to ID expectations, responsibilities among umbrella authority: Towns

Marketing and Promoting the Trail

Public Outreach

Timeline

Pre-adoption

- Concept brochure
- Media outreach
- Signboard by Route 1 in Ellsworth, Machias
- Networks
- Kiosks at Festivals?

Post-adoption

- segment by segment
- town-by-town public informational meetings or workshop

Ownership of abutting properties - will owners argue that deeds return property to abutters if rails are removed. Need a solid legal statement that land does not revert to owners.

Environmental impacts of reclamation process.

Phase the outreach

- concept

- construction
- maps
- maintenance

Naming the trail

- Contest
- Memorial segments for contributors
- Sponsorships

Resources needed

- Concept plan
- Examples of successful trails - e.g. Newport to Dover
- Tort Claims laws - to assure towns that they are not legally liable
- Safety and liability issues for crossings
- Input from emergency response

Other resources?

Who should we bring to the table?

County government - (trail advocate)

- Washington County -Dean Preston
- Hancock County - Walter Bunker, Sheriff Bill Clark
- John Titus (Tort Law)

DOC -

DOT - Peter Coughlin (local roads publication might be a good public outreach tool – but it is statewide.)

Clubs and voluntary organizations (currently Friends of Acadia, but might want to add snowmobile, ATV, bicycle, equestrian, walkers)

More information on multi-town trails

- Aroostook - Kathy Mazzuchelli
- West River Trail - Brattleboro, VT

Local information - contacts, emergency response

Permitting process - trails are a categorical exclusion

River crossings - DOC Permitting

Funding - for materials

Matrix of emergency responders in each town

Newport Dover Group

Priority Questions

1. Shape of the umbrella organization

Role of the state - maintaining the umbrella -eg public lands

Responsibility and authority of towns

Involvement of clubs and voluntary organizations

2. Assurances to promote this trail?

Getting answers to FAQs

Legal questions

Liability

Deeds and land ownership

Environmental

Design

Maintenance

Management