

## Black Woods Scenic Byway Corridor Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

DART Office, Cherryfield

Attending: Ashby Bladen (Cherryfield), Ian Staub (Franklin), Ben Clark (Rec Ranger, BP&L), Chuck Simpson (BP&L), Greg Burr (IF&W), Charlie Corliss (BP&L / Sunrise Trail / Cherryfield), Crystal Hitchings (WCCOG / DART / Bold Coast Byway), Jim Fisher (HCPC)

Regrets: Kathy Upton – Not available on Tuesdays (Cherryfield), Stephen Rees (Cherryfield)

### Updates

- Bureau of Parks and Lands
  - Hired three new staff including Ben Clark
  - Gov. restructuring the Department
    - \$1 million seed fund for operations – may be insufficient
  - Increasing logging overall, but not in the Black Woods area this year
    - Cutting heavier clear cuts – “Lynx Cutting”
    - Increase from 140 – 160 – 180 – 200 cords over four years
    - Forest will look different with younger growth
    - Would produce more biomass – chipping small trees
    - Moving to contract logging – pay loggers and selling logs directly to mills
- No cutting planned this summer
  - Will cut a section off of Dynamite Brook Road after a few years
  - Ashby concerned about ruts, proximity to streams, other damage
  - Chuck noted that the certifiers approved the sites post cutting
  - Using more temporary
- Alewives have run up into Donnell Pond
- **Discussion** - plowing parking areas for winter access
  - BP&L Plowed Donnell this winter
  - Next priority would be Hidden Ponds/Tunk Mountain parking lot
  - Volunteers / ice fishermen have done some plowing at Tunk Lake
- ATV Connector trail
  - Tim Gott granted permission to put a trail through his property in Franklin
    - Prefers people use the woods – reduce the dust
    - Easier to fix the road than build a new trail
    - Scott wants to complete the trail
    - Could use gravel from the public lands – General Cobb Road
  - Discussion about approaches to Little Pond
    - IF&W would like to keep the ATV trail away from the Pond
    - Building a loop trail between Sunrise Trail
    - No route available from Donnell Pond Road to Myrick Pond Road

### IF&W – Greg Burr

- Stocking brook trout in Tunk Stream
- Working with BP&L to maintain Tunk Lake facility

- Andersons Power wash cleans the privies when they are fouled – might be available for other locations.

### **Cherryfield Updates – Crystal Hitchings**

Train Depot re-roofed – seeking additional funds to renovate structure as an information kiosk

#### Destination Cherryfield

- Second annual crafts and music event planned – October first weekend
  - First year went well
  - Could highlight the Black Woods – organized hikes, photo hikes
  - Sunrise Trail
  - Paint Cherryfield

Cherryfield Fourth of July – Late June events have been planned

- Applied for a DART grant to update the historic tour
  - Map
  - Brochure
- Bold Coast Byway updates (Note: Bold Coast Byway Public Meeting 4/20/15 7:00 PM Machias Savings Bank, 4 Center Street Machias)
  - Completed Corridor Management Plan
  - Posted to website
  - Corridor Management Committee

### **Sunrise Trail – Charlie Corliss**

- Working on parking in Franklin
- Six Campsites have been created on the Cherryfield Stretch in Milbridge
  - Picnic Areas, fire rings
- Developing regional trail maps for ATVs and Snowmobiles
  - Cover South of Route 6, East of Ellsworth
  - Selling adds on the back
- Summer 2015 Visitor Programs
  - Town of Cherryfield
    - Independence day
    - Cherryfield Invites You
  - BP&L
    - Access road improvements
    - Trail Improvements
    - Campsites
  - The Nature Conservancy – Great Outdoors Weekends?

### **Town of Franklin**

- Monday – Memorial Day Celebration
- Public Land Acquisition

- Vet's club (Steve Walton) and town want to purchase property at corner of Sunrise Trail and Route 200
  - Raising funds now – owner asking \$50,000 hoping to negotiate
- Greg Burr noted that IF&W is interested in protecting a stream that runs by the blueberry factory
- Need to build some parking
  - Reconsideration of extending byway through Franklin – Jim will discuss with the new selectboard.
- **Byway Improvements**
  - Highway maintenance – committee discussed areas where the road is particularly rough
    - Catherine Hill
    - Franklin
    - No major projects are planned by MaineDOT
  - Scenic Turnouts – no plans for additional turnouts
    - Signage appears to be holding up well
  - Wayfinding
    - Jim proposed replacing the metal wayfinding signs using the template created for BP&L with some added logos and highlighting the byway
    - Jocelynn Hubbel at BP&L is the contact for sign update and publications (note: Jim contacted Jocelyn after the meeting and sent a proposed layout for a new map sign.)
    - Jim also discussed the possibility of creating small museum – in – the –streets plaques for historic Cherryfield
    - Litter - Ashby noted that litter is a problem
      1. We may want to consider a litter collection day
    - Trash and privy at Tunk Lake facility
      1. Camp owners or others are packing the trash can with household waste
      2. We should post a sign indicating that this is not permitted
      3. Also noting problems with trash in the privy vaults leading to much higher cleaning costs
- **Trails**
  - Scout Troops are going to work on Redman's Trail up Black Mountain (Schoodic Side)
  - Have some funds set aside for trail work – but probably not for Black Woods
  - Discussed possible routes for a trail from Tunk Mountain to Tunk Stream
    - IF&W and BP&L are open to the trail concept
    - Would probably require a pedestrian bridge over Tunk Stream