

# Route 113 Corridor Committee

Corridor Committee Meeting

April 17, 2008

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Standish Municipal Center

## Meeting Notes

**Attendance:** Gordon Billington (Standish); Peter Burbank (Hiram); John Chwaszczenski (Hiram); Steve Gourley (Brownfield); Bob Jewett (Baldwin); Ken Kimball (Hiram); Elizabeth Libby (Hiram); Marlene Livonia (Hiram); Terry Miller (Forest Service); Jessie Mulherin (Fryeburg); Paul Mulherin (Fryeburg); Eric Noble (Hiram); Ed Pierce (Hiram); Phil Pomerleau (Standish); Glen Reynolds (Baldwin); Jonathan Sarty (Stow); Larry Seidl (Baldwin); Mike Shaw (Standish); Lou Stack (Standish); Marlee Turner (Brownfield); Steve Wood (Baldwin).

**Staff and Guests:** Julia Dawson (SMRPC); Caroline Paras (GPCOG); Dave Kinsman (Mountain Division Alliance)

### I. Welcome and Introductions

#### A. Meeting Minutes

Julia called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. A round of thanks to Standish for hosting the meeting.

There were no changes or corrections offered for the minutes of 2/21/08 and 3/20/08.

### II. News

#### A. Maine Bike Rally

Dave Kinsman gave a report on the Maine Bike Rally, which will be held on July 11-13, 2008 in Fryeburg. The official website is located at <http://www.bikemaine.org/mainebikerally/index.html>. Over 500 bicyclists are expected from all over the country. Many will be taking the Downeaster to Portland and riding up Route 113 for the event. On average, cyclists spend about \$100-\$125 per day while touring. Committee members asked Dave how they could help. Ideas included:

- Road banner to welcome bicyclists
- Brochures made available via sponsor booths or registration packets
- Water stations for any rides going up Route 113
- Welcome posters at area stores

There was also discussion about safety issues for riders along Route 113 as well as the “trashy” condition of the road. Dave will talk to the Steering Committee, which meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in May, and get back to the Committee.

## B. Town News

Baldwin: Larry reported that the Baldwin Business Association is planning for “Baldwin Appreciation Day” on July 12.

Brownfield: Steve reported that the town is gearing up for the annual Mount Washington Valley clean-up May 17-18. The update for the Comprehensive Plan is in limbo.

Standish: Phil reported that Standish will be building a gazebo in Steep Falls. This will be a great site for summer concerts and picnics. He also talked with Ernie DeLuca, the Recreational Enterprise Manager for Florida Power and Light. They are willing to fix up the old Hiram Nature Study area at Ingalls Pond and build a boat launch on the Saco River.

Stow: Jonathon reported that the Town will host a Special Town meeting to vote on participation in the Scenic Byway. At the same time, residents will also vote on whether to save the old Town Hall. If it is torn down, it will be rebuilt as a community arts center with a farmers’ market. Jonathon would like to continue to participate on the Route 113 Corridor Committee if the group will “have” him.

Hiram: Ed reported that a representative from the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad came up to meet with him at the museum. It is unlikely they would relocate to Hiram because the Federal Railroad Administration will not allow a third rail on the Mountain Division line. A lifelong resident of Hiram has purchased 175 acres round Mount Cutler. Students at Sacopee Valley are working to improve the trails. There will be a trail clean-up day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The land may eventually be turned over to the State for management purposes.

## II. Scenic Byway

### A. Grant application

Julia reported that 18 applications, including ours, were submitted to the State and forwarded on to the Feds for review. Four were for Corridor Management Plans.

### B. Byways Conference

Four people from the Route 113 Corridor Committee attended the Maine Scenic Byways Annual Conference in Rangeley in early April – Julia, Phil Pomerleau, Lou Stack, and Steve Wood. Overall, the group enjoyed the conference’s focus on “enhancement” not change. The byways group might establish its own website dedicated to Maine Byways only. The MaineDOT gave an interesting presentation on guardrails, and asked the group to pick which designs they would want to see used on Maine’s byways. Jim Fisher (Hancock County Planning Commission) also introduced the topic of lighting and how important it was to prevent light pollution. Another topic was creating scenic turnouts through public and private partnerships, such as Florida Power and Light. In Rangeley, the local land trust has raised millions for the Byway through grants, loans and creative land swaps.

Larry brought up the issue of the Baldwin Water Tower and whether they could get a grant to fix it up and repaint it. No decisions were made at this time.

C. Light box

Julia checked with the company that makes these. They charge \$80 per hour to design the light box and \$438 to make it.

Caroline passed around a mock-up of the light box for discussion. She tried to make the design as simple as possible with compelling images that were representative of every town in the corridor. Overall, the group felt that the design was pleasing and uncluttered.

D. Website

Julia passed around a write-up for the [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org) website. It is limited to approximately 60 words. More pictures are needed.

Larry mentioned that he had purchased the domain names of [www.pequawkettrail.org](http://www.pequawkettrail.org) and [www.pequawkettrail.com](http://www.pequawkettrail.com) to save them for the group.

E. Other Byway Activities

Elizabeth brought a notice in the Advertiser placed by Dana Gould from Hiram to recruit residents for a clean-up day on May 17-18. The Committee decided to piggyback on these efforts by coordinating a clean-up of the Route 113 Corridor on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Baldwin Business Association agreed to host a BBQ at the end of the day for volunteers. Julia will check with MaineDOT on logistics and resources available, including trash bags and vests. Each Committee member was asked to recruit at least two more people to help with the clean-up. Due to safety issues on Route 113, it was felt that children should not be enlisted to help.

#### IV. Next meeting

A. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be held at the Brownfield Town Office on Thursday, May 8 from 3-5PM.

B. Other items

Mike Shaw passed around a study on the Economic Impact of the Downeaster. This will be the topic of a special meeting on April 30 in Dover, New Hampshire.