ETMD Board of Directors

Kennebunk Town Hall

October 9, 2011 8:30–10:30 am

**Trustee Attendance**

Kittery –

Eliot –

South Berwick Anita Rosencrantz

North Berwick –

Wells –

Kennebunk Mike Claus (MC)

Arundel Tad Redway, President (TR)

Biddeford Dan Letellier, V.P. (DL)

Saco John Sherman (JS)

Old Orchard Beach Jeffrey Hinderliter (JH)

Scarborough Bill Reichl (BG)

South Portland -

ETA 1 John Andrews (JA)

ETA 2 Carole Brush (CB)

ETA 3 Jim Bucar (BL)

**Also attending:**

Dan Jones Kennebunk PD (DJ)

Chris Rouse York County Sheriff (CR)

Justin Cooper Biddeford Fire Dept., Deputy Chief (JC)

1. Meeting called to order by TR, 8:38 am; all attending introduced themselves.

2. Minutes from September 12 and notes from non-quorum meeting of October 12, previously forwarded to all with the November Agenda, were accepted.

3. DL produced a sheet (sent with the November Agenda) detailing proposed amendments to the FY 2012 ETMD budget to eliminate a $3,310 . shortfall:

 From To

ETMD Newsletter reduced $250. $125

Computer Systems Support $300 $100

ETMD & ETMap Web Support $750 $500

Trail Maintenance $7500 $6000

Contingency Fund $2250 $1000

In addition, CB proposed that the line item “Trail Maintenance” be re-labeled “Trail Operations”

 After those reductions, the budget showed a $15 surplus.

 The motion to accept these amendments to the FY 2012 were unanimously accepted

4. Trail Management & Operations: Emergency Response location (mileage) markers on off-road trails

 Problem: numerous town lines and road crossings make location of emergency callers very difficult to pinpoint. Solution: provide mileage/location markers with sufficient precision that emergency responders know which town’s should answer the call and which cross roads permit quickest access to the persons and incidents.

 The attending trustees and public safety personnel first considered recommendations (sent to all with the November Agenda) from the Board of Directors of the York and Cumberland County Fire Chiefs and the District I & II Police Chiefs: “We recommend that the mileage markers be consecutively numbered along the ET starting at the ME/NH border and moving north . . . every 1/10 miles . . . .”

 JC confirmed the sense and reasons for those recommendations, and TR thanked the Boards’ speed forming and issuing their recommendations.

 AR agreed with DL’s recommendation that the mileage computations begin at Bug Light and work south, that being the part of the trail with the most off-road miles, which would be easier to compute accurately and need far less revision in coming years. There was general agreement that that was a sensible revision.

 There followed extended discussion of the intervals between markers, with a starting consensus that 1/10 mile markers were overkill: too expensive, difficult to compute accurately, requiring too much revision as trail segments were filled in, and unnecessary to meet the “precision” criterion. JA felt that ¼ mile markers were cumbersome and unattractive; JH said that the ET’s intervals should conform to standard practice on other roads and trails; JC, DJ, CR cited the need for smaller rather than larger mileage intervals because the trail, especially in the KAB section, is chopped into small sections by town boundaries and road crossings, making jurisdiction and access difficult to assess. He added that cell phones give only rough information about the caller’s location. DL suggested that ½ mile intervals were too broad, but ¼ mile intervals were both effective and financially practical. CR thought the ¼ mile interval was workable, a good compromise.

 AR reminded the group that the ETMD had very limited funds and other signage needs to consider. CR suggested Unitil might contribute to mileage markers, since they need to locate trail spots for their maintenance work. DJ and JC said cheaper plastic or plain wood markers were fine for their needs. DJ thought affected towns might apply for grants to help fund the marker signs. AR brought up the possibility of applying to MDOT for funds, though TR thought that getting help from MDOT was a hard slog. DL wondered if there were any public safety grants available. TR urged that all marker locations be plotted and made available to 911 call centers.

 DL made the following motion:

 “The Eastern Trail shall install signs along the off-road sections only, beginning in South Portland and heading south. These signs will be designed to keep the integrity of the trail and be place at ¼ mile increments. Funding for signs will come from a collaborative effort of ETA, ETMD, Unitil, and local municipalities.”

 JA seconded the motion, and it was passed.

 The trustees also responded favorably to the suggestion of the public safety participants that town lines and crossing roads be clearly marked and identified on the trail.

5. Bollards and emergency access to the trail

 JC said that while Biddeford has a 6-wheel vehicle, many towns lack an emergency vehicle ideal for trail access, but that a more serious problem is posed by bollards. CR noted that the permanent cemented bollards at the Kennebunk Bridge, possibly installed to prevent unauthorized vehicles’ damage to the bridge deck, were impassable. MC said that he could cut them easily enough. DL suggested that ETMD replace the bollards with removable bollards like those on the Scarborough Marsh bridge. MC noted that ETMD should first consult with Unitil about changing the bollards.

6. Opening ceremony for Rt 1 Bridge and Saco-OOB segment

 JA said that he cannot make all the arrangements needed for a November 30 ceremony. TR and DL proposed that it occur at an unspecified date in the spring of 2012: nicer weather, open the new trail season, pace our PR events, take the time to do proper planning, Bob H will be recovered. JA suggested after trees are leafed out in the spring. DL pointed out a spring opening would tie in with the York Hill opening.

7. Signage meeting scheduled fro 11/17. TR unable to make meeting at Saco Town Hall. Needs: on-road signs to connect off-road sections in Saco and Biddeford, and very soon in OOB. Much irony and discord accompanied ideas about the prospects for quick decisions and implementation by MDOT. DL said Saco and Biddeford could supply signage on their own. JA suggested using John Balicki (sp?) as a consultant, suggesting that approach to Dan Stewart

8. Events Application Form (sent to all with the November agenda)

 The latest iteration was generally approved, but the insertion of a box announcing “Fees include a $25 administrative fee by Scarborough . . . “ was eliminated (probably an inadvertent cut-and-paste from the form from which the ETMD form was borrowed. After a brief discussion the form was approved by the trustees.

9. Saco-OOB Project

 CB reported that the walkthrough is scheduled for 11/14 starting at Thornton Academy. Some bollard design issues with Unitil, but being discussed and will probably be resolved. The project looks to be about $63–64K over budget, but Dan S says MDOT will cover it. At present, there is a proposal to create an ADA approved ramp for access to the trail at the new bridge. We are requesting Shaw Brothers to stay online for that project in the spring; again, Dan S says MDOT will seek funding for that addition depending on the ability to connect from the ET to Saco sidewalks. Also, Dan S is making provisions for for funding five (5) benches to be installed along the new section. CB thinks we should make such additions part of our thinking for future projects.

 [Parenthetically, Bruce Gullifer cc’d ETMD a letter thanking Marco Risbara for raising funds and installing five (5) benches along the ET in Scarborough, as part of his Eagle Scout project.]

10. Bob LaNigra will deliver the permanent plaque for the Turnpike bridge to MC.

11. The $150K funding for the Scarborough/Nonesuch project design has been approved by MDOT, but they want a timeline “by Monday.” MC said he would help by providing a project timeline form he has used.

12. There will be no trail grooming during this winter season. In fact, Biddeford reports difficulty getting a response from Unitil to their notices that they wish to mow along the sides of the trail. TR stated that the Co-Location agreement with Unitil does not require either permission from Unitil, or Unitil observers for such activities: only a three-day phone notice stating the town’s intention.

13. Two trees reported down across the trail in Arundel, much to TR’s surprise and consternation. Either Arundel or Unitil will clear the trail.

Meeting Adjourned, 10:38 am

Submitted by Jim Bucar, Acting Secretary