

# ETMD Board Meeting Minutes (ZOOM)

January 12, 2022

1. **Welcome & Introductions** – Meeting began at 8:36AM. Members present included Bob, Ryan, Greg, Joe, Mark, Jami, and Jon
2. **Consent Agenda** – Consent agenda was moved by Ryan and seconded by Mark without changes. The consent agenda was approved unanimously except for Jami who abstained.

### 3. **Trail Operations** –

- **Trail Maintenance Report**

- Jami mentioned that the Pine Point parking lot is slated to be paved and the 3-rail wooden fence replaced in Spring 2022. The Gap bid is being prepared and the remaining landowner easement is being finalized. It is intended that construction will begin this year on the Gap project.
- Ryan mentioned that Saco is working on replacing the ET parking since at Mill Brook Industrial Park and going through the Dig Safe process. The camping is no longer occurring on the JA bridge, there has been fence repair leading up to the JA bridge (both wood fence and chain-link), and there is a bench request in honor of Jim Bucar underway.
- Joe reported that the beaver issue in Biddeford seems to be rectified in light of work until did to clear the debris and replace the culvert.
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### 5. **Trail Counts**

Jon mentioned that efforts are underway to perform trail counts again in August 2022 at the same locations they were done in 2021. There are also efforts to undertake supplemental trail counts using existing ETA equipment and boxes on the trail to provide additional data at other locations along the trail.

### 6. **Updates on active projects**

- **Close The Gap** – It was noted the Gap section is awaiting final agreement on the last easement required for the trail on the Scarborough/S. Portland lines. The ETA has raised additional funds to cover some of the anticipated \$250k increase in the total \$6.1M budget for the project, which is due to inflation over time.

- **Over The River** and **Blaze The Trail South** – Updates were provided for the two feasibility studies underway for these two projects. The projected completion dates for the work is March 2022. Both for these feasibility studies will provide the necessary feasibility work to be prepared to move on to full engineering design, which we have secured for Blaze the Trail South and continue to seek funds for engineering design for Over the River.

## **7. Economic Impact Analysis**

- Jon provided an overview of the Economic Impact Analysis undertaken by Camoin Associated and in partnership with Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission. The analysis showed that the Eastern Trail provides \$44M in economic impact each year. The summary and full economic impact information is available at: <https://easterntail.org/the-economic-impact-of-the-eastern-trail/>.

## **8. New Business**

- Potential signage was discussed regarding notice under the 195 bridge in Saco that trail users need to share the trail and realize the trail is constricted (and possible a reminder about dogs being onleash). Ryan offered to talk with the traffic safety committee in Saco about the potential for improving signage, etc.
- The idea for creating a winter use policy that might include skiing and fatbike guidance or rules was discussed, as well as consider the potential to groom the trail using a snowdog. It was suggested that other user groups would need to be consulted (including Apex Connection) and public input sessions provided to get a broader perspective on a winter trail use policies.

## **4. Adjourn – 10:00 AM**

**Next meeting: March 9, 8:30-10:00AM**