NEMBA

CENTRAL MAINE

Build It - Bike It
Central Maine NEMBA
www.cemenemba.org

Applying NEMBA Chapter: Central Maine
Project Manager: Christopher Riley – Chapter President
Email: chrisriley73@gmail.com
Phone: 207-232-7174

Project Title: Mount Apatite, Inner Loop Trail
Project Location: Auburn, Maine. 44.093098, -70.293963
Project Timeline: April-August 2018
Dollars and Shovels

- **Project Total Cost:** Estimated 12,500-15,000.
- **Chapter Contribution:** >$2500
- **Trail build budget**
  - Up to 15 days with mini-ex @ $300 /day = **$4500**
    - We have a strong relationship with a local owner/operator that has been building for us for 3 summers. He has a proven track record and has finished all projects we have hired him for both on time and within our given budget.
  - 120 hours with CeMe Trail crew = **$6500**
  - Wood & Fasteners for bridging = **$1500**
    - $.65 bd/ft for rough cut 2” Hemlock decking: $350
    - PT 2”x10” and 2”x12” for bridge underpinning: $650
    - GRK Fasteners, Rebar, etc: $500
  - Miscellaneous
    - Maruka(tracked dump truck) rental for hauling material: 2 days @ $350/day = **$700**
    - Compacter rental: 3 days @ $85/day = **$255**
  - **Additional Funds:** TBD based on CeMeNEMBA spring fundraiser, and other local contributions to the project.
The Inner Loop Trail will be a 2.5-3 mile purpose built mountain bike trail that will serve the growing trail user community in the Lewiston/Auburn region. Riders in this area have been asking our chapter to gain access and permission to build a true bike trail on this property. We see this as our first real opportunity to make that a reality, and we have support from the city and the local trail community.
Project Description:

- The Inner Loop trail will be a 2.5-3 mile trail to answer the needs of a growing riding population by adding much needed trail mileage, purpose built trail, as well as providing the City of Auburn with a signature trail to showcase what the local NEMBA chapter can provide in regards to trail design and construction. After the successful build of a short section of trail now known as “Trail School” that was built during the one day trail building clinic in the spring of 2017, local officials are encouraged by the result and excited to have us design and build a much longer trail. We believe this trail project will also serve as a launch pad for future trail development in the community and allow us to explore connecting this trail to the broader area and possibly to 2 other major parcels of land that are close by and open to trail development.

- CeMeNEMBA and other user groups have done yearly maintenance on the existing trails at Mt. Apatite. It has been suggested that the best option for some of these “legacy trails” would be to reroute them completely and let them be reclaimed by time. Given that this trail system has been used for decades that ideas is not acceptable to many area residents and users. This new trail gives us an opportunity to not only put ourselves forward and prove that we are an excellent and capable resource for building trails in the region, but also meet a growing demand for well designed and built single track at this trail network. This trail will also reduce the impact on the existing “Blue Loop” trail and help spread users out.
The Lewiston/Auburn region is the area that our chapter has seen the largest amount of growth in recent years. Lewiston/Auburn is the second largest metropolitan area in the state *(combined population 59,000 in the cities, with another 20,000 in surrounding towns)*, yet it has the least amount of accessible trail resources compared to other Maine cities. Mt. Apatite is currently the only place in the city with trails accessible to bikes and the entire network has less than 6 miles of trail. Each year we add more and more people from these two towns and the surrounding suburbs to our membership. People are hungry for well built bike trails. Even with the growing membership we have had a hard time gaining traction on available trail projects. This seems to be changing as CeMeNEMBA was just asked to be a presence on the newly formed Auburn Trails Commission, and we have been contacted by the Lake Auburn Community Center to assist with maintaining a fat bike trail network in winter. Unlike our other areas (Augusta, Waterville, Farmington) where we have a long history of working with municipalities and landowners, the L/A region has had a number of hurdles for trail building groups. This trail project will add significant growth to the resource, show the city of the kind of trail we build, and meet the growing demand for trails that are fun for new riders. This trail will be a significant enhancement to the Mt. Apatite network, and will also serve as a destination for local riders. We expect this trail project to be the beginning of much future growth.
How does the project benefit your NEMBA Chapter?

• We expect that this will help to grow our chapter membership in this area, and also give us a much stronger relationship with the town planners, and local landowners. We also expect that, when well executed, this trail will expose us to new funding avenues for future trail development in the area. This new trail will make Mt. Apatite a more appealing destination for riders, and give us a better locale to host clinics, group rides, and other bike related events. We have also been told that improving the trail resource will help the local bike shops, and other youth organizations that are looking to get kids on to the trails. One of our primary goals as a chapter is to help get young people on bikes and trails and we expect this to aid in that effort.
How will this project be executed?

• **Phase 1 (March/April) Flagging and Design:**
  
The final trail layout will be done in the early spring during the wettest part of the year and prior to the trees leafing out. This will allow us to avoid seasonally wet areas as well as to best see the terrain and the areas we wish to use/avoid.

• *NOTE: as of late fall 2017 some of this zone has already been flagged/scouted for 2018 building. The first 1/4 of this trail had been granted permission to start building prior to the grant announcement. Since then we have been granted permission for the entire trail.*
Phase 2 (April/May) Creating the Corridor:

• Once the trail is flagged we will use volunteers to clear the corridor, clear the duff layer, and prepare for the building process. Historically we find that volunteerism is greatest in the early spring when people are excited for riding season, but the trails are still not open for use. We expect that when the project is announced we will see a strong pulse in volunteer labor for this phase of the project.
Phase 3 (May-July) Digging in the Dirt:

• Our summer trail crew, and our machine operator will do the bulk of the trail building during this phase. This will be the most time consuming portion of the build and where the vast majority of the grant money will be used. We have been working with the same machine operator for 3 years and he works very well with our crew and our projects. He has consistently finished our projects on time, and often under budget.

• There will also be regular volunteer opportunities where people can join scheduled work parties during weekend and our popular bi-weekly “T-N-T” (Tuesday Night Trails) sessions.
Phase 4 (August): Features and Bridges:

- Once the bulk of the trail is completed we will bring in material to build necessary bridges and other features to finish the trail.
- Once the features and the trail are completed our chapter will plan a “ribbon cutting” event where we will invite city officials and the media.
Will your chapter be providing any cash contribution to enhance this award?

• Yes, our Chapter is prepared to contribute $2500 toward this project. If our spring fundraiser is successful we will have room in our budget to increase this contribution.
What additional funding sources is your chapter seeking for this project?

• We will be hosting our annual Spring Social/Auction in April, as well as Tread Fest, our race/ride fundraiser. These fundraisers will help in raising money for this project and others in our region. If we are successful in securing the grant there are local businesses that we can approach if further funds are needed.
Will your chapter be partnering with any other group or agency to complete this project?

• We will be working directly with the City of Auburn, The Auburn Conservation Commission, The Androscoggin Land Trust, and Maine Cycling Club.
Is there broad community support for this project? Please list the groups that are providing letters of support for this project. A support letter granting permission for the project must be provided by the land manager.

• Overwhelming support! Please read the letters below.
City of Auburn, Maine
Office of the City Manager
Denise Clavette, Assistant City Manager
60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine
04210  www.auburnmaine.gov  | 207.333.6601

Dear Members of the New England Mountain Bike Association Grants Committee:

On behalf of the City of Auburn, please accept this letter of support for the Central Maine Chapter of NEMBA request for a $10,000 Signature Trail Grant proposal. The proposed grant will help create a much-needed new trail system on Mount Apatite in Auburn, Maine. We strongly support this grant application and the efforts being made towards developing a multipurpose trail system for the greater Lewiston Auburn Community.

Being a City that is dedicated to engaging their residents and visitors in recreational opportunities, this project falls in line with our current Comprehensive Plan and Council initiatives. Joining forces with NEMBA and other organizations in the goal of achieving a year-round trail system, this grant would help achieve our common goal of an active, healthy, and happy community.

Through this letter, we acknowledge specific roles and responsibilities we will fulfill in this partnership. In the event this proposal is funded, we would expect our role in the Mt. Apatite project to include:

1. Allowing for the project to be conducted on City Property
2. Help generate awareness of the project and new trail system to the community via website, online map, and various City committees.
3. Support the development of a work group that will continue to pursue grants, advocate for parks and trails, and collaborate with other interest groups in events/programs and overall support for the Mt. Apatite trail system.
4. Continued annual maintenance in cooperation with local organizations and support groups.

We look forward to working with NEMBA and the other local support groups in developing the trail systems on Mt. Apatite and achieve our goal of providing safe, available, and fun recreational opportunity.

Best regards

Denise M. Clavette, Assistant City Manager
February 23, 2018

Letter of Support: Central Maine NEMBA Signature Trail Grant
From: Shelley Kruszewski, Androscoggin Land Trust
To: NEMBA

To whom it may concern,

The Androscoggin Land Trust (ALT) strongly supports Central Maine NEMBA’s application for the Signature Trail Grant to build an Inner Loop Trail at Mount Apatite. ALT is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) membership-supported organization dedicated to protecting, through land conservation and stewardship, the important natural areas, traditional landscapes, and outdoor experiences along the Androscoggin River watershed. ALT is currently focused on strategies to increase access and awareness of local trails and to increase opportunities for recreation and engagement with the land and works closely with organizations, municipalities and groups focused on similar efforts. At Mount Apatite in particular, ALT has been working with volunteers, other organizations like Central Maine NEMBA and the City of Auburn since 2007 to help monitor and maintain the trails and hosts an annual snowshoe hike there. Our commitment to the land that we conserve is perpetual and, in that regard, we support efforts such as Central Maine NEMBA’s proposal that can have a long-lasting impact.

We think the trail proposed presents a valuable opportunity for the area, adding substantial mileage to the Mount Apatite trail system. It would be great to enhance the location to be able to host more outdoor recreation events and encourage more people to take advantage of the many great outdoor opportunities in the area. We appreciate that it will be a multiuse trail that provides an especially exciting trail for the increasing number of mountain bikers in the area while also benefiting the larger trail using community. We have been impressed with the quality of trail work that Central Maine NEMBA does at Mount Apatite and have seen that their foresight leads to more sustainable trails for the long term. We have also witnessed the enthusiasm Central Maine NEMBA builds among its volunteers, trail crew and riding community. We can confirm the difficulty that the current blue trail encounters in terms of water flow and erosion challenges. There is interest in improving and increasing trails like this and ALT volunteers would like to learn about opportunities to assist and looks forward to continuing to work cooperatively with Central Maine NEMBA on trail projects.

Please be in touch with further questions and thank you for taking the time to consider our support.

Sincerely,

Shelley Kruszewski
Executive Director
Androscoggin Land Trust

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PO Box 3145 Auburn, Maine 04212 www.androscogginlandtrust.org (207) 782-2302
To Whom It May Concern:

Healthy Androscoggin is a coalition of community members who work locally to improve the health and quality of life in Androscoggin County. We seek a community environment supportive of healthy lifestyles by promoting five main goals:

- Supporting physically active communities
- Promoting healthy eating
- Preventing childhood lead poisoning
- Supporting tobacco free lifestyles
- Preventing substance misuse

Healthy Androscoggin supports the award of the NEMBA Signature Trail Grant to the Central Maine Chapter of NEMBA for trail improvements at Mt. Apatite. Mt. Apatite has a trail network that receives little attention and given the historical significance and natural beauty of the mountain, we believe that funding for trail improvements at this location will make an outsized impact on the local recreation economy.

Healthy Androscoggin recognizes that quality trail networks increases physical activity among residents and offers a uniquely accessible opportunity for residents to become active and reduce stress during all times of year. Because of this, we regularly promote trails in Androscoggin County through our networks, social media and print media. We hope to have the opportunity to promote new trails at Mt. Apatite made possible by this grant.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 207-795-5990 or email me at guayer@cmhc.org

Sincerely,

Erin Guay, MPH
Executive Director
To Whom It May Concern:

The Conservation Commission of Auburn, Maine, wishes to express its support for the Central Maine chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association as it seeks a grant to build a new trail at Mt. Apatite in Auburn. Mt. Apatite is one of Auburn’s largest parks, and a wonderful site for conservation and recreation. The park has the city’s largest concentration of publicly owned trails, but unfortunately, many of these trails suffer from poor location and overuse. The Blue Trail, in particular, is very muddy during the late winter, spring, and any extended stretch of wet weather, and as one of the most heavily used trails at Mt. Apatite, it degrades further each year.

Central Maine NEMBA’s proposed project would establish a new trail that would provide an alternative to the Blue Trail. While the plans are for a singletrack path desirable especially to mountain bikers, this multi-use trail will also appeal to hikers and runners. From discussions with the planners we are confident that the new trail will be thoughtfully planned and constructed, with attention both to visual and recreational attractiveness and to conservation. Since the trail will roughly parallel the Blue Trail, it will allow users to access the same areas as the older trail and follow routes similar to their familiar ones, thus diverting traffic from a problem area. Since it will be located uphill from the Blue Trail, and constructed with good erosion-prevention techniques, it should draw users especially during times when the older trail is wet. So, not only will the new trail be a great addition to Mt. Apatite in its own right, but it should actually serve to stabilize – if not improve – the Blue Trail. Auburn’s cyclists, hikers, and trail runners will be very excited for this great addition to one of our most popular outdoor recreation sites.

Auburn’s Conservation Commission consists of seven citizens appointed by the City Council to serve as a research, advisory, and advocacy group on environmental and conservation issues relating to the city.

Respectfully,

Jordan Tate, Auburn Conservation Commission Chair
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you in support of the Central Maine Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (CeMeNEMBA) and their grant application to fund additional trail development at Mt. Apatite in Auburn, Maine.

As we’ve written in the past, Central Maine NEMBA is a solid organization that does a lot of grass roots work to build the mountain biking community. The chapter is actively growing, has a vibrant community and works hard to foster mountain biking in the central Maine area. They already have put in significant work at Mt. Apatite both in terms of real trail-building and relationship building with the city officials to ensure a positive future for the trails.

This trail building grant will enable additional Central Maine NEMBA to further this work building a much needed additional trail, Inner Loop. In addition to providing a new trail for the park, it will help demonstrate how CeMeNEMBA can work with the city of Auburn to add value to the community and foster the growth of mountain biking here. Further, because of the growth of mountain biking here, new trails are an important part of continuing that growth.

We also feel that over the years Central Maine NEMBA has demonstrated it is a quality organization that works hard. They regularly hold trail cleanup days, clinics, and host a number of weekly organized rides. As noted, they’ve already put in many man hours at Mt. Apatite to improve the trails. Central Maine NEMBA is a quality organization worthy of this trail grant - they will put the money to good use.

Thank you for considering CeMeNEMBA for this grant. The mountain biking community in Central Maine is growing and this grant will help insure that it continues to grow at a healthy pace.

Yours truly,

Dominic Giampaolo & Frank Jalbert
Busytown Bikes
207-241-3233
busytownbikes.com
To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter to convey my support for the Mount Apatite improvement project. I have been an area resident all my life and also a business owner in both Lewiston and Auburn. Expanding and improving the trails and infrastructure at the park would be a boon to all residents of the Twin Cities. I've noticed a great deal more usage in the last 5 years from hikers, walkers, and cyclists. The area is centrally located and very easy to access. Mount Apatite could be so much more with some improvements. Grants would help tremendously with expanding trails and access.

I think we would also get more visitors from surrounding areas who would look at the park as a destination. Mt. Apatite has huge potential and I would strongly endorse a grant to benefit the area.

Thank You

John R. Grenier

Owner –Rainbow Bicycle, Lewiston, ME
How will this project be promoted/marketed to the MTB community?

• Regular Facebook posts (1,229 followers), Instagram (@rideceme), as part of our weekly email series, flyers at 6 local bike shops, volunteer work parties, and through the partner organizations that we will work with to complete this project. We also have a connection to the local newspaper and expect that they will run a story during the building of the trail.
• Does the project location allow public access for recreation, including mountain biking?

• Yes 😊
Please include maps, photographs and any other supporting materials that will strengthen your application.

• Below is an outline of the proposed trail. The trail will have egress options for riders at strategic locations to allow them to exit/enter the trail as desired. This will allow novice riders to sample various sections of the trail without the need to commit to the entire loop, while also giving more advanced riders a continuous 3 mile loop to enjoy.