

Bryant Watson
LVRTC - MP
c/o VAST
26 VAST Lane
Barre, VT. 05641

REC'D DEC 11 2006

December 4, 2006

Dear Mr. Watson,

I have the following comments on the draft management plan for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail:

1) I see no reason why a seat on the management committee should be reserved for a member of VASA, when ATVs are specifically prohibited from the trail. At the November 28 hearing on the draft plan, you claimed that a liaison to VASA was needed because of the likelihood of ATV trespass on the trail and on the property of adjoining landowners. Rather than reward the irresponsible behavior of the ATV community with a seat at the table, why not designate one of VAST's representatives on the committee as a liaison to VASA? As it is, the committee is too heavily weighted towards motorized recreation, and adding an ATV representative only compounds the problem.

2) I believe that at least one seat on the management committee should be reserved for adjoining landowners. That group, which will be heavily impacted by decisions made by the committee, has been almost completely left out of this process and their concerns have been largely ignored. Many issues – from curfews to enforcement problems – have a far greater impact on adjoining landowners than on any user group, and it only makes sense for them to be represented on the committee.

3) You have brushed off questions about herbicide spraying, but the matter is of great concern to many potential users of the trail and to adjoining landowners. As the father of two small children who will likely hike and bike on the trail, I strongly object to this form of 'management'. As an adjoining landowner, I also object because of the likelihood of herbicide drift and runoff onto my land, which is managed organically. A better and safer means of vegetation control is needed, and the management plan should specify that chemical herbicides are NOT to be used.

Thank you,



Steven Gorelick
South Walden

Cc Trini Brassard, VAOT