

LVRTC  
The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail  
Management Committee

**MEETING MINUTES - AUGUST 12, 2009**

Stonegrill Restaurant & Pub, Morrisville, Vermont

**ATTENDEES**

**Members (*np = not present*)**

Laird McDowell (Chair)	Mike O'Hara	Steve Larrabee	Al Spitzer ( <i>np</i> )
Bethany Remmers ( <i>np</i> )	Dan Zucker (Sec'ty)	Red Goodman	Zeke Zucker
Mike Farmer	Dave Polow ( <i>np - resigned</i> )	Danny Hale	

**Non-Members**

Bryant Watson (VAST)	Jesse Hudson (VAST)	Andy Gilbert	Ken Heoppner
Jeff Fay (VAST)	Todd Sumner (VTRANS)	Al Roberston	Jim Hill (VAST)

**Call To Order:** 6:35pm by Laird

**Secretary's Report** (from June & July, 2009 meeting):

It was observed that the June report was not officially moved, seconded and voted so Red moved to accept the two reports, Mike O. seconded and both reports were accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Submitted by Laird (acting as interim treasurer), based on report distributed by Bryant. The report showed a cash balance:

as of 8/12/09: \$845.38

and noted that July expenditures, including in-kind services was

as of 7/31/09: \$23,836.37

Mike O. moved to accept, motion seconded by Zeke Z., vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**Bryant Watson's Report:**

- August 10 was the final date for the response for our response to the appeal of the decision by the district coordinators decision to exempt the LVRT from act 250 jurisdiction.
- There were some updates to the website including adding a link for donations via PayPal.
- Sept 12<sup>th</sup> is the annual VAST member meeting. the LVRTC has a booth reserved and will be staffed from 9-5pm. Laird asked the committee members to help man the booth. He estimates that between 300 and 500 people will attend.

- The VEDA loan application is in process (has not been submitted yet). The VAST board has approved the application. The grant will be for up to \$750,000, drawn down as needed for 2.5% interest (the rate for municipalities). Payback starts in 5 years on a 30 year payback schedule.
- Discussion ensued about details of the \$100,000 loan from VAST after a question by Danny H. Discussion included references to the upcoming VAST annual meeting and the sentiments expressed by members, clubs and the VAST board.
- Bryant offered that \$80k has been spent so far on legal fees alone.
- Mike suggested that the Management Plan, Section 8, paragraph F (Hours of Operation) be worded as follows "The Hours of Operation are as described in the LVRT Lease w/ the Agency of Transportation.". The wording was moved by Steve L., seconded by Red, approved unanimously.

#### **Al Robertson's Report:**

- We are within a day or two of submitting a resource identification report to VTRANS. If they turn it around quickly, we can get our CE paperwork in immediately. We expect permitting to happen quickly. Presumably by early Sept. we'll have the CE approved.
- We have discovered that FEMA is involved w/ floodplain analysis & reporting requirements. ANR didn't go through this process but instead bypassed it by merely not taking the necessary steps.
- We still have issues w/ silt-wasting and some culvert problems (at culvert 67/o, which is not on our list because it doesn't impact the trail. However a landowner wants the culvert cleaned so he can graze cattle. The board agreed that the landowner's project for grazing cattle is not part of the LVRT project.

#### **Sander's Office Report (Ethan R. not present):**

#### **LAC Report (Bethany Remmers not present):**

Al reported that the LAC has arranged w/ a private firm to collect GIS-based data on landowners along the LVRT w/ names and addresses. We'll need to update periodically probably by going to the listers once or twice a year.

#### **Friends of the LVRT (Red):**

Red reported that there has not been a meeting since April. Heidi asked for new committee members. Ken H. mentioned that he will be joining the Friends.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Law Enforcement (Danny Hale):** NTR

**Communications (Red Goodman):** NTR

**Maintenance - Al Spitzer:** np

**Policy - Zeke Zucker:** NTR

**Fundraising:** Ken H. requested of the Friends that they help build 1,000 kits for the Roundup Program. The Friends offered to put up seed money and get repaid as money comes in.

He mentioned that the PayPal donation feature on the website was functional

WPTZ will provide us with 140 spots now that we have 4 sponsors (Subway, The Forget-me-not Shop, Marty's & Guy's Farm & Yard).

The News & Citizen will give us ad space.

Additional promotions via ads and other activity details were provided on a separate report.

Zeke Z. moved to permit the Friends to provide seed money for building 1000 kits for the Roundup Program, seconded by Mike F. Discussion ensued. The vote was unanimous (Red abstained because he's a member of the Friends).

#### **New Business:**

**The Challenge to the JO:** (See Bryant's report).

**Need for Treasurer:** In the absence of a volunteer, Laird agreed to remain as interim treasurer until the September meeting.

**New Committee Member:** Andrew Gilbert of S. Cabot was nominated to represent non-motorized users. Danny H. moved to go into executive session to vote on Andy G., seconded by Red. Discussion ensued. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative and the committee returned to the general meeting.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Zele Z. at 8:20 and seconded by Red.