

LVRTC Meeting Minutes
April 8th 2009
Tegu building

Attending Committee Members: Laird MacDowell (Chair), Zeke Zucker (Vice Chair), Danny Hale, Mike O'Hara, David Polow, Bethany Remmers, Mike Farmer

Absent Committee Members: Dan Zucker, Red Goodman, Alan Spitzer, Steve Larrabee

Other Attendees: Bryant Watson, Alan Robertson, Ken Hoepfner, Jessi Hudson, Todd Sumner (VTrans.), Jim Hill (VAST)

Guests: David Gillerdale (VTrans), Robert Ide (VTRans Rail Program Manager), Ken Gammell, Andrew Gilbert

Laird called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Secretary's Report:

There were no recommended changes. Mike O. moved and David seconded the motion to approve the March minutes as written. The motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

Danny had nothing to report. He however initiated a discussion based on his not having received any information for the past 3 months. Bryant presented the new format for the LVRTC Financial Update and the figures for the current month.

Bryant Watson's Report :

He reported anticipation of an opinion of Act 250 in about a week.

The Categorical Exclusion work is going forward but we're 'on hold' pending the Act 250 decision.

He will inform us immediately upon receipt of the Act 250 adjudication.

Alan Robertson's Report:

VHB is working when it can.

A meeting on historical preservation is scheduled.

He is working on the Categorical Exclusion and Storm Water Permitting, among other projects.

Regarding Act 250, he said that if we get a successful judgment, it will initiate ' a wave start'. i.e then we would see the C. E. and then the R.O.W., etc..

LAC Report:

Bethany provided a main agenda update –

- The Committee is working on adjoining landowner identifying and parcel mapping. She provided an impressive large map of the Lamoille County portion of the LVRT, with the adjoining land parcels indicated.
- They are also looking at all rail crossings and studying the policy that has been promulgated and followed by the Missisquoi Rail Trail Committee.

Friends Committee Report:

- David said that they've not yet received word on their enhancement grant application.
- The newsletter is coming
- The Hyde Park trailhead planning group has been told to wait on any work beyond basic clearing.
- The Friends are planning on publicity initiatives.

Sub Committee Reports:Law Enforcement:

- Danny previously prepared a report which will appear in the next Friends newsletter.
- It appears that law enforcement has been adequate through the winter
- He and others are watching carefully for any illegal ATV activity along the corridor
- VASA has its own registration system which resembles that of VAST
- Bryant reported that a collection of organizations are planning a coordinated study of snowmobile exhaust pollutants. The participants will include the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, the U.S. Forest Service, VHB, Pioneer Environmental and UVM

Communications: Nothing to report.

Maintenance: Nothing to report, although Alan Robertson said that Alan Spitzer has already started some preliminary procedures considerations

Policy & Development: Nothing to report.

Fundraising:

- Ken Hoepfner reported on his March Activity, primarily on progress with the Round-up program.

- He has investigated a possible party for principal players in the donations arena, and has gotten an agreement from Brown & Jenkins Coffee Makers to host same.

- He is working on WPTZ marketing ideas with his committee and Union Bank is a possible sponsor.

- Regarding future work on fundraising, an extended discussion ensued regarding continuation or discontinuation of his project.

The decision was handed down to discontinue, at least until the economy improves or pending Ken's receiving sufficient donations to offset his monthly charges.

Ken was publicly and enthusiastically thanked for his diligent and thorough efforts.

New Business:

- David recommended that Steve Reynes of Primer, Piper, Eggleston & Cramer, attend our next meeting if we are not granted exemption from Act 250.

- Bethany inquired regarding the status of the Management Plan

- Mike brought up the subject of corridor encroachment in the vicinity of Joe's Pond.

- We were told that the Route 2B bridge is being completed and will be delivered by VTrans.

Bethany moved and David seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Laird adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Submitted by Zeke Zucker, Acting Secretary

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