

## LVRTC Minutes

December 10, 2008, 6:30 pm  
Plaza Hotel Conference Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Steve Larrabee	Laird McDowell, <i>Chair</i>
Bethany Remmers	Allen Spitzer	Dan Zucker, <i>Secretary</i>
Dave Polow	Zeke Zucker, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Danny Hale

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<b>Committee Members Absent:</b>	Julius 'Red' Goodman	Mike O'Hara
	Mike Farmer	

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<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Bryant Watson	Todd Sumner, <i>LTF Project Mgr</i>
Ken Hoepfner	Jesse Hudson	Alan Robertson

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Laird.

**Public Comments:** None

### Secretary's Report:

Moved by Allen Spitzer. Motion approved.

### Financial Report:

Distributed to the committee: LVRT "Cash Disbursements Journal" and a "Budget Report" prepared by the VAST accounting system. General discussion ensued with no actions taken. Discussion included inability to obtain FEMA money for the Danville bridge replacement and the subsequent unexpected outlay of cash for that bridge. Bryant mentioned that we will soon be liable for fees incurred by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) and Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer (PPEC) now that a contract w/ VHB has been approved and signed.

The report was moved by Danny H. and seconded by Zeke Z.

### Byrant Watson's Report:

- Poulin Bridge: VAST and town of Cambridge came to agreement on winter use of bridge. VAST has submitted agreement w/ town of Cambridge to insurer. Agreement includes use of Infrared camera. Groomers will not be allowed on bridge.
- Working w/ PPEC and VHB to get jurisdictional opinion on Act 250. Bryant state that there appears to be a compelling case that we should not be under Act250 jurisdiction. BW estimates that on 12/15 we will be able to submit request for jurisdictional opinion.

### Project Engineer's Report (Al Robertson):

- Spent time w/ state historians reviewing bridges and other railbed/surroundings for possible historical significance.
- Al now submitting permitting status in regularly updated report "LVRT Permitting Status". This report will be uploaded to the website separately.
- Al affirmed that no construction can take place prior to the categorical exclusion (CE).

Discussion ensued about wetland identification

### LAC Report (Bethany Remmers):

- Bethany R is officially Chip's replacement on the LVRTC until the June LAC elections.
- The LAC will have a by-law review & update to be submitted to the LVRTC per the MP.
- Offered to work w/ VAST on landowner database and fill role of landowner outreach – they'll make proposal on landowner database (creation, maintenance, etc.)
- Asked that LAC be invited to Jan or Feb LVRTC meeting (Laird supported Feb)

**Friends Report (Dave Polow):**

Reported that Becka asked if we (LVRTC) were applying for an RPT grant. Bryant reported that we (LVRTC) haven't used it yet and will probably use it to keep VYCC engaged.

**Ethan Ready's Bernie Sanders Office Report:** Nothing to report (NTR).

**Sub-Committee Reports:**

Law Enforcement: NTR.

Communications: NTR. General discussion ensued over dissatisfaction w/ current LVRTC website. Specific concerns were low quality of design, stagnating development, lack of communication from developer. Bryant affirmed that if the funds are found, a content management system implemented by VAST could accommodate the LVRTC sub-site.

Maintenance: NTR.

Policy & Development: Zeke mentioned that winter-grooming consistency was mentioned as an issue and would be tackled in near future. Unrelated discussion ensued about treating ballast gravel ("choked ballast surface").

Fundraising: Ken Hoepfner submitted electronically (titled "Fundraising Status Summary as of 11/30/08"), distributed copies at the meeting and gave an overview of his fundraising activity. He reported that current economic trends were negatively impacting donor generosity. The committee as a whole commended Ken on his diligence.

**New Business:**

- Release of FTE fund legislation. Bryant distributed a document titled "Help Stimulate the Economy through Much Needed Infrastructure Investment November 21, 2008". This included verbatim of a bill being floated by the Vermont congressional delegation to relieve the transportation grants of the requirement of a local/state match. Discussion ensued, no action taken.
- Laird raised the question of internal email communications. Discussion ensued. There appeared to be general agreement that communications via email were appropriate as long as the discussion was not conducting LVRTC business (i.e., discussion leading to a vote, or voting).
- An ad hoc committee from Hyde Park requested the construction of a "demonstration section" of the LVRT. This was essentially a prompt for discussing the issue of whether or not we can open sections of the LVRT without opening the entire trail. Debate ensued. There appeared to be general consensus that because the permitting process may grossly redefine the construction plan, construction prior to permitting was impractical and that once permitting was complete the entire trail would be put under construction immediately (due to availability of funds and the high likelihood of a complete design spec, subcontracts, etc. being in place).
- It was also affirmed that during the four months of VAST snowmobile season, all sections of the trail managed by VAST (through local clubs) are officially open to motorized and non-motorized users. The remainder of the trail will be open as "use at your own risk".

Danny H. moved to adjourn at 8:35pm, seconded by Dave P.

[Nota Bene: This report details a convoluted and lively meeting at which no recording device was used, and thus should not be considered accurate until (this report) is approved by the committee at the next meeting.]