

LVRTC
The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail
Management Committee

MEETING MINUTES - JULY 08, 2009

Stonegrill Restaurant & Pub, Morrisville, Vermont

ATTENDEES

Members (*np = not present*)

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

Non-Members

Bryant Watson (VAST)	Jesse Hudson (VAST)	Dave Guilderdale (VTrans)	Ken Heoppner
Ethan Ready (Sen. Sanders Office)	Jeff Fay	Pat Poulin (VAST)	Jim Hill (VAST)

Call To Order: 6:30pm by Laird

Guest Speaker

Dave P. made a motion (Steve L seconded) that we hear from Steve Raines about the motion to reconsider filed regarding the Jurisdictional Opinion (JO) issued last month. Unanimous vote of 'aye'.

Raines' main points:

- Filing requirements that are central to the legal standing were not met in terms of timing, notification of all parties, etc.
- Our counter-filing includes a motion to dismiss because the filing was not valid.
- District Coordinators' JO agree that this is a repair & replacement project and not subject to act 250 review. Motion to reconsider didn't challenge that JO, only the issue of re-routing trail around property of one landowner.
- Filing didn't specify a particularized interest of named parties as part of establishing party status.
- ANR has a statutory right to file an opinion to the environmental court if the issue goes to the appeal stage.
- Comments are being taken until 7/22. No specified timeframe for response from DC's.

Dave P. reminded Raines of Hyde Park's interest in getting grant money spent but it is being held up by permitting delays. Raines believes timing will allow money to be spent and agreed that this information was pertinent to his filing (to be submitted by 7/10).

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

Moved by Spitzer., Seconded by O'Hara, approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Submitted by Laird (acting as interim treasurer), based on report distributed by Bryant via email of 7/2 (VAST). The report showed a cash balance:

as of 6/30/09: \$9,252.86

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

as of 6/30/09: \$43,751.47

[The secretary did not note that the report was officially moved and approved either due to oversight on the part of the committee or an omission from the secretary's notes.]

Bryant Watson's Report:

- General discussion ensued about the motion to reconsider that was filed, likely outcomes, related issues.
- Bryant distributed copies of the summer issue of *The VAST News* that included a centerfold map of the trail and other LVRT information.
- Also distributed copies of the finished "Landowner Value Book" w/ integrated coupon to distribute to area businesses to support landowner good-will.
- Discussed setting up a donations page on the VAST site (via PayPal).
- Looking into VEDA loan eligibility at 2.5%.
- Re-calculated total project cost at approximately \$6 million and estimated that we have about \$800k that we have yet to find a funding source for.
- VHB is on track for filing the C.E. by the end of July
The next two steps will be:
 - get the CE from the feds
 - submit Conceptual Plans (next phase of the LTF process)

Al Robertson's Report: NP

Sander's Office Report (via Ethan Ready):

Nothing specific to report other than general discussion of project, communications w/ the senator, etc.

LAC Report (via Bethany Remmers):

The LAC did not meet this month. Bethany distributed copies of the *Guide To The Mississquoi Valley Rail Trail* as an example of promotional material for a similar project.

Laird reported that he and Zeke attended an initial organizational meeting in Cambridge of a group interested in compiling a comprehensive trail guide to all trails.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Law Enforcement - Danny Hale: NP. Laird raised issue of ATV use on state land (currently forbidden but there are attempts to bring bills to the legislature allowing such use). He suggested that this will become a significant issue over the next few years.

Communications - (Red Goodman): NP. Mike O. raised issue of web site. Bryant mentioned that maintenance costs could be estimated at \$1k-\$1.5k per month. General discussion ensued.

Maintenance - Al Spitzer: NTR

Policy - Zeke Zucker: NTR

Fundraising: Ken H. submitted presentation from Lamonth [sp?] Associates on fundraising. His report was generally upbeat, reporting on pledges of sponsorship and productive discussions with a variety of potential donors including Rock Art Brewery.

Laird commented that there would be an LVRTC booth set up at the VAST annual meeting (courtesy of Pat Poulin) on 9/12 and invited members to help man the booth.

Discussion of fundraising ensued, including use of PayPal, other potential donors, events and contacts made.

New Business:

Landowner issue with plugged culvert: Laird reported that an issue with a plugged culvert gave us the opportunity to test our responsiveness to such issues. Landowner was satisfied with responsiveness.

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

Adjournment: Moved by Dave P at 8:15 and seconded by Bethany.