

LVRTC
The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail
Management Committee

MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 10, 2009

Stonegrill Restaurant & Pub, Morrisville, Vermont

ATTENDEES

Members

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

Non-Members

Bryant Watson (VAST)	Al Robertson	Dave Guilderdale (VTrans)	Ken Heoppner
Jeff Munger (Sen. Sanders Office)	Todd Sumner (VTrans)	Jesse Hudson (VAST)	Andy Gilbert

Call To Order: 6:30pm by Laird, who noted that all members were present.

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

Moved by Mike O., Seconded by Red G., approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Submitted by Danny H., revised version distributed by Bryant & Jesse (VAST). The report showed a cash balance:

as of 5/31/09: \$13,499.36

and an added note that

as of 6/10/09: \$9,254.12.

Danny H. resigned as treasurer giving as a reason that the position merely required him to distribute paper copies of a report generated by VAST. Laird agreed to take on the position in the interim. Discussion ensued about the lack of funds for ongoing expenses beyond mid-July, need for fundraising, etc. [See Bryant's report below]

The report was moved by Mike O., seconded by Mike F., approved unanimously.

Bryant Watson's Report:

Jurisdictional Opinion (JO) was finally issued on 6/1/2009 (the starting date of the 30-day appeal window) by the district coordinators and becomes final on 7/1/2009 if no appeal is filed. Did not say that project was entirely under federal review but individual sections of project could fall under Act 250, including any sections where ACT250 permitting was already in place historically, such as ANR's flood-plain restoration project, or areas where rail-banking repair/maintenance does not apply but instead are considered construction.

A number of construction projects may not fall under ACT250 based on VTRANS discussions, such as the bridge over Rte 15 in Walden and guardrail requirements based on Vermont's general bike/ped trail construction guidelines.

Any existing ACT250 permits would have to be amended if projects in those areas require ACT250 oversight.

Bryant believes that Doug Morten will work on an RBEG grant since the NRVDA believes it can submit application for grants at any time of the year.

VIDA may have guaranteed loan program

Jeff Munger spoke on the issue of funding and the fact that it is unlikely that any "Stimulus" money would be available because those funds are specifically targeted via the existing Transportation funding priorities. He emphasized the message from Senator Sanders: "Fundraise".

Bryant added that there is a possibility of getting funds from gas & diesel taxes recently imposed.

Bryant emphasized that we would need approximately \$1000,000 - \$150,000 for major construction.

Al Robertson's Report:

Reported that we will probably not have to get an 'operation of trail' permit (that would have to be renewed ongoing at some significant expense) but would instead just have to get construction permitting. The actual paperwork for the permitting takes several months but we are moving ahead on the LTF process.

Reported that the Corp of Engineers approved of the plan for utilizing the 20-30 existing trailhead facilities. There are still historical/archeological reviews that VTRANS has to do, as well as an issue with FEMA and bridge repair/replacement.

Estimated that we will probably not get the Categorical Exclusion until this fall and that construction would begin spring 2010.

Current maintenance issues being addressed include work done on Lost Nation Road and some silted-out culverts that are being repaired to test methods to be employed along the trail.

LAC Repor (Bethany Remmers)t:

Reports that she has been elected chair of the LAC and will stay on as rep to the LVRTC. Doug Morten is vice chair and will sub if she cannot make meeting.

Noted that the Management Plan has no language on dogs, dog leash policy.

She also noted that an issue with a LAC member speaking off-the-record to the press but not clarifying that lead to the LAC addressing the issue as part of their policy for board members.

Friends of the LVRT (Dave Polow):

Reported that joint Friends/LVRTC Newsletter was sent to a 'big' mailing list of people. Also, the Friends are interested in the development of the "Showcase" section in Hyde Park because the grant obtained for that project expires at the end of 2009.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Law Enforcement - Danny Hale: No complaints have been received.

Communications - (Red Goodman): NTR

Maintenance - Al Spitzer: NTR

Policy - Zeke Zucker: NTR

Fundraising: Ken H. reported that because of the J.O. being issued he can now go back to potential donors. Danny H. moved that Ken H. should be reimbursed for expenses and mileage for the next 60 days (until the August meeting of the board), total expenses not to exceed \$2,000. Seconded by Zeke Z. Vote: Aye (10), one abstention.

New Business:

Business Coupon Booklet Application: Bryant distributed copies of an application for the VAST "Landowner Value Book" which allows a business to offer deals to trailside businesses. VAST plans on sending one to each landowner along the LVRT.

Management Plan Revisions: The final edits were reviewed. Bethany reiterated the observation that the MP lacked any mention of a policy on dogs. General discussion on State vs. Town dog ordinances (Leash Laws). The plan was moved by Mike O. and seconded by Steve L..

Adjournment: Mike F. moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm, seconded by Red.

