

LVRTC  
The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail  
Management Committee

**MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 14, 2009**

Stonegrill Restaurant & Pub, Morrisville, Vermont

**ATTENDEES**

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

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

**Non-Members**

Bryant Watson (VAST)	Jesse Hudson (VAST)	Pat Poulin (VAST)	Ken Heoppner
Al Roberston	Joe Cicia (VAST)	Dave Guilderdale (VTRANS)	Star Poulin

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

**Secretary's Report** (from September, 2009 meeting):

Danny H. moved & Mike O. seconded, the minutes as submitted, unanimous acceptance.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Submitted by Laird (on behalf of Mike F.), based on reports distributed by VAST. The report showed a cash balance:

as of 9/30/09: \$ (1,126.82)

and noted:

income: \$ 13,090.91

expenses: \$ 14,217.73

The report was moved by Mike O., seconded by Zeke, unanimous acceptance.

**Bryant Watson's Report:**

Bryant presented information on the reversal of the Jurisdictional Opinion (JO) and the question of next steps.

- The VAST executive board voted to appeal the decision
- Waiting on VTRANS and the AG's office for their official position.
- AG has 30 days to file a response w/ the environmental court (EC).

- The EC will have 50 days to rule, once the appeal period has ended.

Extensive discussion of JO reversal ensued, no formal action taken.

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

- Permitting will hold up project due to VTRANS inability to process permitting paperwork. Delays appear to be due to combination of sick employee and bureaucratic inefficiencies and a lack of accountability.
- VTRANS has not yet begun to review our 'Alternative Submittal' submitted in August.
- The VTRANS standard defining a "Rail Trail" appears to be flawed and inadequate. There are about 10 different engineering standards that don't properly apply to the trail. John Kaplan will be reviewing our request to address these standards flaws and our alternative design (Kaplan is the bike/ped project manager for VTRANS).

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

#### **LAC Report (Bethany Remmers):**

The RPC's, via RJ Turner, have collected data on adjacent landowners and developed a database. The project is completed except for Fairfield and Sheldon which don't have paper maps; there are total of approximately 986 parcels. The RPC's have a copy of the State grand list and have matched up w/ the database to provide parcel information and addresses for mailings and communications.

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

Friends have a new board member (Dan Young) and Bekka Rolf is moving away. Friends annual mtg is Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. Major topics are fundraising and support for the trail.

### **SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Law Enforcement - Danny Hale (np):** ATV use will not diminish until the 'Safe Pursuit' policy (= 'No Pursuit') has been discontinued

**Communications - Red Goodman:** Updates to web page are not happening in a timely manner.

**Maintenance - Al Spitzer (np):** NTR

**Policy - Zeke Zucker:** NTR - Zeke welcomed suggestions for the committee to address

#### **Fundraising:** Ken H.

- The Friends will focus on fundraising
- Met w/VT Horse Council - they announced their intent for financial support, as did the Northeast Riders of Franklin County.
- Will be meeting w/ the Morrisville Business Owner's Group, who have expressed support.
- Has met w/ Green Mountain Club, expressed willingness to help w/ providing data.
- Enosburg's Lion's Club, also expressed support
- The Teen Challenge will assemble and distribute 900 collection boxes for the Roundup Program.
- Rock Art will give the LVRT one month's % of profits, also a % of sales of Rock Art Rail Trail beer.

- The Woodstock Cookie Company will consider a Rail cookie.

The issue of a checkbox on the VT Tax Return: requires legislation. Ken and Zeke met w/ tax commissioner and Ken has requested of the legislature that a bill be submitted for consideration. The request was met with both positive and (one) negative response.

#### **New Business:**

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

**VAST Annual Meeting:** Joe Cicia report on the proceedings of the meeting and that the membership was unanimously in favor of ongoing funding of the trail.

During this discussion, Bethany moved, seconded by Mike O., that "The LVRTC supports VASTS's appeal to the environmental court of the District Coordinator's reversal of their original decision". The motion was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Bethany at 8:32 and seconded by Zeke.