

LVRTC  
The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail  
Management Committee

**MEETING MINUTES – January 13, 2010**

Stone Grill Restaurant & Pub, Morrisville, Vermont

**ATTENDEES:**

Members (np = not present)

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

Non-Members

Bryant Watson (VAST)	Jesse Hudson (VAST)	Dave Gilderdale (VTrans)
Joe Cicia (VAST)	Jim Hill (VAST)	Todd Sumner
Ethan Ready (Sen.Sander's Ofc.)	Al Robertson (Proj.Eng.)	Ken Hoepfner

Call to Order: 6:34 pm by Laird

Secretary's Report (From December meeting):

No Discussion. Moved, seconded and approved

Treasurer's Report:

\$ 8,334.17 – Income  
10,740.89 – Expenditures  
< \$ 2,406.72 > - Balance  
Report moved, seconded and approved

Bryant Watson's Report:

1. A status hearing was held with an Environmental Court Judge on January 5. The hearing was held to discuss the time table for this case and to address the request for party status of 14 adjoining landowners. Only one of the four showed up, and they were granted status.

- We have 45 days from the 5th of January to submit our request for the summary judgment, on the list of 12 questions that VAST submitted to the court.

- The judge granted those with party status the right for discovery on our 12 questions; the opportunity to request further information regarding said questions.

- The Parties then have 30 days to respond, after which we will have 15 days to respond back.

- The courts are reportedly backed up at least 6 months.

- Our next checkpoint is February 2nd, the anticipated date for a status report from the Court on the defendants' quest for discovery items.

## 2. Regarding Act 250 Determination

- According to the state statutes. Active railroads used for “transportation purposes” are exempt from Act 250, as long as work does not extend beyond the legal right-of-way of the railroad. Vermont’s railbanking law clearly states that a railbanked railroad continues to be an active railroad; however, the statute does not define “Interim Trail Use” to be for a transportation purpose. The state legislature, via Senator Richard Mazza, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, is being asked to have the state’s railbanking law amended to define that “interim trail uses” are for “transportation purposes.”

- If this passes, it would be clear, that the LVRT is exempt from the Act 250 process.

3. A discussion ensued regarding the status of the Federal Funds based on the latest delays.

### Alan Robertson’s Report:

- Opened with “Good News” regarding the 3 Rivers Trail. Resolution may happen soon and could benefit us.

- The Route 15A Bridge – The State may get Stimulus funds to address the problems and the pending design may include an underpass for us.

- Working with VYCC. We potentially have months of work for them and money to do it and may not have to worry about Act 250 complications

### LAC Report from Bethany Remmers:

The RPC Data Base on adjacent parcels is progressing nicely. The table of Match Rates shows an overall average of 81%, with Johnson being the only low one at 47%.

Maps are being drawn up.

Friends of the LVRT – Red Goodman did not attend the recent Annual Meeting and deferred to Laird, who did.

He reported that Mike O. and Mike F. gave their stellar LVRT Status Briefing and there was a good turnout for the meeting.

### **SUBCOMMITTEES:**

Law Enforcement – Danny Hale – NTR

Communications – Red Goodman – NTR

Maintenance – Al Spitzer – NTR

Policy – Zeke Zucker - reported the results of the Subcommittee’s discussion regarding Segway Trail Use Policy.

- He provided the definition of Segway as a self-balancing, electric personal transportation device with two wheels.

- They are not motor vehicles, according to Vermont Law.

- The Vermont Bike & Ped Coalition does not have a position regarding their use on recreation trails.

- The Cross Vermont Trail does not address their use

- There is an assistive segway version which allows a disabled individual to be seated.
- The Sub Committee's recommendation is that only assistive segways be allowed on the LVRT along with motorized wheelchairs. No other motorized vehicles would be allowed.

Fundraising – Ken Hoepner –

- Reports that the adds on WPTZ are being refreshed
- Indicates that in order to keep raising funds the emphasis must shift from Construction to Repair & Maintenance.
- Further discussed the pending Bill to get a check box on the Vermont Tax Forms for donation to publically owned recreation trails.
- Round-up boxes are out and filling up.

Public Relations – Andy Gilbert –

- Reported a meeting at VAST H.Q. with Imagination Company. To develop a P.R. Program.
- It was suggested that a meeting be held at their shop and that our website should be the first item to be addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Laird reported on his meeting with Nancy Schultz, the Exec. Director of the Vt. Bike & Ped Coalition. She is quite proactive and fully supports our efforts. He suggested that we provide an article for her newsletter.
- Laird has also had discussions with Jim Fredericks, Director of the Catamount Trail Association. He too supports us but is quite reluctant to consider including the LVRT as a recommended route for cross country skiers

- Management Plan – The only changes made recently are strictly grammar-related, such as changing tenses. A comment was made that instead of people having to wade through the M.P. to find the hours of trail operation, these hours should be put on our website.

Adjournment: Done at 7:55 p.m. after moved and seconded.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

Submitted by: Zeke Zucker, Acting Secretary

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