

LVRTC  
The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail  
Management Committee

**MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 9, 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	Zeke Zucker ( <i>np</i> )
Mike Farmer	Andy Gilbert	Danny Hale ( <i>np</i> )	

**Non-Members**

Bryant Watson (VAST)	Jesse Hudson (VAST)	Pat Poulin (VAST)	Ken Heoppner
Al Roberston	Jim Hill (VAST)	Elisa Fitzgerald (WPTZ)	

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

Laird invited E. Fitzgerald to present a storyboard for an LVRTC commercial, sponsored by Subway of Central Vermont and Guy's Farm & Yard. The storyboard was met with approval by those present although no formal vote was required to proceed.

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

Mike O'Hara moved the August minutes as submitted, seconded by Mike Farmer; unanimous acceptance.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Submitted by Laird (acting as interim treasurer), based on reports distributed by Bryant. The report showed a cash balance:

as of 8/31/09: \$2,422.21

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

as of 8/31/09: \$6,479.41

Laird distributed a rough accounting (not detailed by GL Account) of expenditures of the \$100,000 loan from VAST to the LVRTC that was provided by VAST, per Danny Hale's request last month. The report mixed in-kind expenses and was received as somewhat confusing by the members because no category totaled \$100,000. No motion was made to accept the report.

### **Bryant Watson's Report:**

- Jesse Hudson presented a Powerpoint presentation prepared by VAST for presenting at the 9/12 VAST annual meeting. It was agreed that Mike O. and Mike F. would present to the VAST membership. Discussion ensued. Dan Z. agreed to email out the FAQ to board members in anticipation of answering questions at the VAST meeting.
- The Management Plan (MP) went to the board in August. They requested a wording change on the Section F description of hours of operation for recreational and maintenance use. Mike O' reminded the board of its July and August discussion and ultimate vote of the same paragraph that removed all specifics and referred to the LVRT Lease Agreement. The issue from the August meeting was recorded by the secretary as follows: (provided here by the Secretary in the compilation of these minutes, but were not provided at the actual September meeting):

*"Mike suggested that the Management Plan, Section 8, paragraph F (Hours of Operation) be worded as follows 'The Hours of Operation are as described in the LVRT Lease w/ the Agency of Transportation.'. The wording was moved by Steve L., seconded by Red, approved unanimously."*

After discussion Laird tabled the issue by executive decree.

- August 10 was the final date for the response for our response to the appeal of the decision by the district coordinators decision to exempt the LVRT from act 250 jurisdiction. No response was filed.

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

- VHB on the last stages of the archeological/historical study.
- All trailhead and most wetland issues are resolved.

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

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

The RPC's are funding a GPS survey of the trail. They hope to have a contractor by mid-September. Also, the LAC plans on purchasing an "Eco-Counter" people counter for trail usage statistics.

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

### **SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Law Enforcement - Danny Hale (np): NTR**

**Communications - Red Goodman: NTR**

**Maintenance - Al Spitzer: NTR**

**Policy - Zeke Zucker (np): NTR**

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

- The Friends will focus on fundraising
- It required \$149 and 5 man-hours to assemble 100 'Roundup' boxes. He distributed one to each member for placement at local merchants.
- Big sponsors are still reluctant in the current economic climate.

- Ken reported on the nature of various contacts with and feedback from potential donors.
- The members were demonstrably appreciative of his efforts.
- At the request of one potential donor, Ken created (and distributed) a PR plan.

**New Business:**

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

**New Committee Member:** Andrew Gilbert of S. Cabot was welcomed as a new committee member replacing David Polow.

**New Officer Elections:** The current slate of officers was re-elected with Mike F. voted in as treasurer. Mike F. was nominated by Mike O.. Red seconded the nomination and the approval was unanimous.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Mike O. at 8:33 and seconded by Steve L.