

LVRT Minutes

August 13th 2008
Charlmont Restaurant

Attending Committee Members: Laird MacDowell (Chair & Financial Officer), Zeke Zucker (Vice Chair & Acting Secretary), Mike O'Hara, Dan Hale, Alan Spitzer & Red Goodman.

Absent Committee Members: , Chip Sawyer, Dan Zucker, Steve Larrabee, Sharon Ahern

Other Attendees: Bryant Watson, VAST Exec. Director; Pat Poulin, VAST President; Jim Hill, VAST Vice President; Jess Leach, LVRT Technical & Administrative Assistant; Alan Robertson, LVRT Project Manager/Engineer; Ken Hoepfner, Fundraising Coordinator.

Guests: Todd Sumner, VTrans Representative; David Polow, Friends of the LVRT, John Kaplan, VTrans Bike & Ped. Program Manager

Laird MacDowell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

First Order of Business:

- Secretary's Report, for the July meeting, was unanimously accepted, submitted and corrected.

Financial Report:

- Laird reported June expenses totaling \$1,256.16, with an ending balance of \$12,435.14.

Bryant Watson's Report:

A meeting on August 13th was held primarily to introduce Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin (VHB) to Pioneer Environmental. The duties of the project were reviewed with regard to phase A, which is the attainment of the Categorical Exclusion.

Bryant passed out the Environmental Tool Kit document, which primarily deals with delineating wetlands and determining culvert heights as they would affect the storm water runoff permit.

This Fall Alan will be working on data collection in order to complete the permitting process. It is hoped that this will be complete by February of 2009 so that permits can be filed and that the NEPA Categorical Exclusion can be obtained by Spring. That is required before VYCC personnel can start working for us.

Project Engineer's Report:

Alan reported that he will be meeting with the Greensboro Select Board this evening and with Walden in early September.

He reports that there is a lot of trail interest among the towns, with one even talking about paving the length of the trail through their community.

In the next 3 weeks there will be many environmental specialists studying the length of the corridor in order to delineate wetland segments.

Bridge **16L over Rte 2B**, which was previously removed by the State, will be replaced. It also appears that in the future, the State *may* communicate with VAST & the LVRTC before contemplating any similar removals. Note: Todd said that *the* type **HS-20** bridge, now to be designated as bridge 16L, will be delivered by November 17th.

Chip Sawyer's LAC Report:

No Chair report due to Chip's absence while on vacation
Mike reported that the LAC endorsed the Friends Trail Enhancement Grant Request. Bryant reported that VAST has done the same.

Friends Update:

Red told us that Sharon has regrettably resigned from both the Friends and the LVRTC due to pressing health problems and family obligations.

Sub Committee Reports:

- Law Enforcement – Dan Hale reported that there have been no new complaints. He also observed that the communities on the western end of the corridor do not view ATV usage as a problem. There is such usage as well as by pickup trucks and other unauthorized vehicles, which he believes will continue until the trail is completed.

- Communications – No report. Due to the resignation of Sharon Ahern, Red Goodman was unanimously appointed as the new chair.

- Maintenance – No report.

- Policy – Zeke Zucker stated that there is currently no project in progress. He said that there has been discussion concerning the possible need for development of an Ethics Policy, but that since VAST has such a policy, there's no need to go about developing a completely new one. The Sub Committee will investigate.

- Fund Raising –

- A soliciting E-mail has been sent to all biking associations in Vermont
- Ken Hoepner reviewed the current donations status, reporting that 14 entities have shown further interest and desire for follow up.

- His August focus will be on legislators and Rotary, Lions & Kiwanis Clubs, a total of 271 requests.

New Business:

1. Greensboro (17) and Danville(125) adjacent landowner mailings - Have been completed. The grand total for the entire corridor stands at 630.

- Bryant plans on looking at town percentages
- Jess is currently updating the data base

- The plan is to do a follow-up mailing to non-repliers

2. Response to Caledonia Record article – after much discussion it was decided that the best response is probably a non-response, but that the final decision should wait until Dan Zucker and Chip Sawyer are present.

- Bryant said that the best way to counter the misinformation would be by means of a later press release, centered on a specific milestone accomplishment, but which simultaneously present the correct and positive picture.

3. First section of LVRT to be built for donation motivation –

- One Committee member and one guest expressed the desire to have a short segment of the trail completed soon in order to create more interest and provide necessary momentum for the overall project.

- Todd Sumner repeated the oft-repeated reminder that *FHWA* requires the completion of permitting and the right-of-way clearance before any construction can begin. Vermont Youth Corps work, however, can begin after the Categorical Exclusion is completed but prior to Permitting completion, because it is considered to be maintenance work.

4. Sharon Ahern Resignation & need for replacement –

- David Polow, who previously applied at the same time as Sharon, was unanimously selected to fill the vacant position.

5. Need for a VAST Committee member – Bryant reported that a search for candidates from Franklin County is underway.

Management Plan Corrections Review –

- The entire Committee went through the several changes that have been made to the M. P., including some simple pen-and-inks. Consensus was reached on all items.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 9:02 p.m..

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