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**Vast LVRTC Committee Meeting**  
**held on December 13, 2006**  
**in Morrisville, Vermont**

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**Attendance:** Ted Chase, Chairman, Julius Goodman, Mike O'Hara, Danny Hale, Dan Zucker, Daniel Favreau, Laird McDowell, Margaret Bowen. Not present Ken Hoepfner and Zeke Zucker and a representative of the regional planning commission.. Others Bryant Watson, ED of VAST, Pat Poulin, VP of VAST and wife, Kenny Gamble Caledonia Director of VAST, Gene Bowen and Chuck Mitchell.

**Meeting was called to order by Ted Chase.**

**Meetings:** It was noted that we need to set the meetings on a specific date and time each month. Therefore, the monthly meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 6:30 PM at Hillary's in Morrisville, Vermont. If any member cannot make the meeting, please let Ted known by e-mail or a telephone call.

**LAC** - Regional Planning Commissions need to work on the LAC, then they submitted their information to our committee who will review the same, vote and pass the same onto the Vast Board of Directors.

**Agenda items** - if anyone has items to add please call or e-mail Ted.

**Member Cards and Web Site** - Julian Goodman is still working on both. He was in hopes of getting onto the state's web site program, but if not, it was suggested that we get a private provider and when and if the state's web site gets up and running we could transfer. Cost of private site is approximately \$10.00 per month. He is to contact the VAST office for billing information. Motion was made, seconded and voted that the LVRTC go with a private web site host and transfer to the state program at a later date.

**Publicity, Media and Press Releases** - It was suggested that this should be done by one committee member. It was noted that Zeke Zucker had been doing the newsletter and updates to town officials in the past, that we have Zeke continue at this time. It was suggested that through the Web Master site all information could be put out and others linked to the same. At this time we do not have a product to publicize but do have information which can be forth coming such as soft news - minutes of our meeting, press releases quarterly, PR releases on our web site and then forwarded to other entities with regular releases if something happens (such as big wash out).

It was suggested that everyone use a standard response when people want to know what we are doing on the rail bed - "it is a work in progress and we are holding regular monthly meetings to accomplish the same".

**Enforcement** - steps have been taken to verify if the rail bed is being used illegally and equipment has been installed at various sites that will give enforcement officials information on violations, if any. The three sheriff's departments will be in charge of enforcement - Franklin County, Lamoille County and Caledonia County have been allocated \$25,000.00. If they cannot do the job then it will be turned over to the Fish and Wildlife Agency.

**Act 250** - Washington County felt that it has jurisdiction. It was noted that properties for rail roads are exempt by Federal Surface Board. The Categorical Exclusion from the Federal Government should take care of any pending matters. Legal status indicates the rail road is rail banked, we are making repairs and not doing any expansion of the facilities. It is being used for transportation purposes and we are obliged to keep the structure in good repair under the Lease Agreement and VTrans is obligated to keep the railroad bed maintained as owners.

Dan Petterson @ VTrans will set down with ATO Attorney to send a response to Ed Stanack of Washington County.

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**Expending Funds for Material** - we will need an engineer on board to approve any bailey bridge material to replace missing bridges before VAST purchases the same, which is available out of state. It was noted that we could use our own money, however it would not count against the match money for the Federal Funding. Improvements will not count on the match before the categorical exclusion is complete and approved.

Also need to have in place a Cooperative Agreement with VTrans to expend any of the Federal Funding through the State of Vermont to VAST.

**Part of the Future Process** - includes Management Plan, Cooperative Agreement, Categorical Exclusion, Advertising for Engineer Services, and Hiring an Engineer.

**Vast Trail Responsibilities on the LVRTC** - there was a call regarding a breach of trail across from Marty's in Danville and the question was who fixes the same and who pays for the repair. It was suggested that the Protocol would be to contact the VAST office so they can keep track of the problem, keep specific records and approve and keep track of monies spent on repairs. Vast is responsible for maintenance of the rail bed.

**Vermont Recreation Trails Grant** - is due by January 15, 2007. It was noted that the LVRTC needs to raise funds for the engineering costs match. Alexis has attended the required meeting. 40% of the pot is for multi use and we should put in a grant application. Friends of the LVRTC should help in gathering the necessary support letters and working on the grant as they have wanted to do something. Danny Hale from our committee will be involved and if there is anyone from the Friends who would like to work on same, contact VAST office. Pat Poulin, VP of VAST said he is willing to put the office staff at VAST to work on the grant application. Motion was made, seconded and voted to prepare and submit an application for funding to Vermont Recreation Trails Grant Program.

**Comments on the Interim Management Plan** - Bryant Watson passed out a packet to each member of the committee which included all the copies of comments received on the interim plan.

Interim Management Plan for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail 12/16/06 - The committee began the item by item, page by page review of the draft as set forth.

Page 4, Section B paragraph 1. first bullet, first sentence "The VAST Board of Directors ...and one individual to represent adjoining landowners. The three Regional Planning Commissions shall nominate the landowner representative and the name shall be forwarded to the VAST Board of Directors no later than October 01 annually; this individual shall represent the position of all adjoining landowners."

The committee responses were not in favor of having the landowner representative come from the motorized users. It was noted that if a landowner was to be represented, he or she would be one of the members representing the non-motorized users.

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After much discussion Dan Zucker made the motion to strike the landowner representation part of the paragraph, the was seconded by Mike O'Hara, discussion on the motion - Dan Zucker stated the LVRT Committee is charged with managing the path/trail and to make the best decisions for its material management including engineering, compliance, etc. To that end it is comprised of both motorized and non-motorized users. To better address issues outside of the material management of the path/trail, the LVRT Committee is to be advised by the RPC's and an organizational structure (that they will be responsible for) that is comprised of business interests, landowners, municipalities and the planning commission themselves.

Because the processes of the LVRT Committee are necessarily open to the public for comment and will be reviewed and advised by the VAST Board of Directors, the state and the public, we believe that fact alone will best represent the interests of ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, while in the interest of the efficiency and goals of the LVRT Committee, the current structure is most suitable.

Also expressed by other attendees was the idea that by attempting to make a Committee that was representative of all interested parties regardless of the degree or kind of interest, that it would open the LVRT Committee to divisiveness and conflict which would carry the concerns beyond the immediate need of the material management of the path/trail.

A vote was taken, and the motion to strike the remainder of the sentence regarding the landowner representation passed.

Remainder of the plan was reviewed and discussed. On page 10 there was a brief discussion regarding curfew should be on all or none but no action was taken.

Upon final review Motion was made, seconded and voted the LVRTC approve the 12/16/2006 draft of the Interim Management Plan for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, as amended on Page 4. Vote was unanimous.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: January 10, 2007 @ 6:30 PM and February 14, 2007 @ Hillary's in Morrisville, Vermont.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned.

M. L. Bowen, Secretary