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**Vast LVRTC Committee Meeting**  
**held on February 13, 2007**  
**at Charlmont Restaurant, Vermont**

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**Committee Members:** Alan Spitzer, Laird MacDowell, Chair  
Zeke Zucker, Vice Chair & Acting Secretary  
Sharon Ahearn, Chip Sawyer Other Attendees: Bryant Watson, VAST Exec. Dir.  
Jim Hill, VAST V.P., Alan Robertson, Project Mgr.

**Guests:** Bill Bartlett, Friends Ken Hoepfner

**The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m. by Laird MacDowell**

**First Order of Business:**

Due to Bill Bartlett's presence and his need to get to another meeting, it was decided to turn immediately to discussion of the Landowner Letter optout statement. Bill's stated position is that the Friends Committee wishes the E-mail addresses and phone numbers to be shared, whereas the LVRTC had previously declared that they would not.

It was therefore proposed that the statement read as follows: "The information will not be shared with any organization not related to the LVRTC." Chip suggested eliminating the word 'share' and say "The information will only be used for the purpose of developing the LVRTC."

He further stressed that the priority should involve getting the letter out with some manner of statement. Bill reinforced the importance of giving ourselves time to work out how to share information and to more specifically clarify the relationship between the LVRTC and the Friends.

Chip moved that last month's statement be revoked, the check box be removed and the new language added. It was moved, seconded and passed.

**Related Item: Envelope Stuffing:**

Bryant said that it could probably happen about the last week in February. It was decided that it would be done at the VAST Office, at 7:00 p.m. on Weds. February 27th.

**Secretary's Report:** The secretary's report for January's meeting, as originally submitted, was unanimously accepted.

**Financial Report:**

Laird reported expenditures of \$2,513 on mileage claims and \$742 on mapping CD's for Orthos photos of the entire length of the corridor.

Ending balance was \$21,707.

**Bryant Watson's Report:**

- He stated that most of his items were already covered so he deferred to Alan. He, however, reported that the changeover to the redesigned website would probably be complete within two weeks. It would be the same information but a different format.

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### Alan Robertson's Project Engineering Report:

- Assessment is complete except the maps.
- Trail overview probably in about one week
- Bridgework info available in about a week
- He's working on the Needs Statement, which is required by AOT for a Local Transportation Facilities (LTF) Project. This leads to an Alternative Description and eventually public hearings and then referral to a consultant regarding the trail construction.
- Larry Donna, the Real Property Specialist at AOT, has given us all encroachments and parcels the state owns along the corridor.
- The Trail Maintenance Schedule will be intensive for the first two years and will NOT include any use of herbicides.
- A grant request has been submitted for initial work to be done by the VYCC
- Alan is working on hiring an A.E. firm(s) as consultants
- He had a meeting with the VTrans Environmental Section Chief regarding the cleaning of ditches and culverts. He pointed out that the corridor has been a convenient 'hiding point' and that we should not be involved in solving the state's environmental problems.
- He envisions as many as 15 - 20 construction projects in many phases
- On April 9th he will talk to the Environmental Government Entities luncheon
- He stressed that this project is not controversial and that it is clearly not an Act 250 matter. It is simply repair and maintenance of a railroad ROW.

### Chip Sawyer's LAC Report:

- \* The LAC is seeking advice on public involvement
- \* At the 2/5/2008 LAC meeting it passed two resolutions:
  1. That a public input phase be included during the development of the purpose & needs statement. Public needs input
  2. That one meeting/hearing be held in each region along the corridor for the proposed Alternatives Presentation Meeting and not through VIT.
- Plans to be written: Management, Design and Development
- Brought up question of mileage reimbursement for LAC and Sub Committee members for meeting attendance.

### Sharon Ahearn's Friends Update:

- They will be holding a one-day retreat to set up sub committees and chairs
- Identified the need for them to merge with us on committees, because there are members who would like to be on our committees
- Discussion of Friends-sponsored day on the trail on March 8th

### Old Business:

- It was suggested that due to the low number of members in attendance that the filling of sub committees be postponed until the March Meeting. This was moved, seconded and passed
- Complaint response format. Was pointed out that there is still a need for receipt verification and that there is discussion of the complaint form on the website
- The motion was made that a complainant be given the choice of the mode of receipt acknowledgement. It was seconded and passed.

### New Business:

- Capital campaign management offer
  - Ken Hoepfner gave his basic ideas, background and offer to head up the fundraising effort. Due to the late hour, further discussion of his offer was postponed until the March meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.