
Vast LVRTC Committee Meeting
held on January 10, 2007
in Morrisville, Vermont

Attending: Ted chase, Chairman, Julius Goodman, Mike O'Hara, Danny Hale, Dan Zucker, Daniel Favreau, Laird McDowell, Margaret Bowen, Zeke Zucker, and Ken Hoepfner. Others Bryant Watson , ED of VAST, Pat Poulin, VP of VAST and wife Starr, Gene Bowen, and Ethan Ready of Senator Bernie Sanders Office.

Meeting was called to order by Ted Chase.

Ethan Ready indicated that Bernie Sanders is very interested in outdoor recreation, sportsman's issues and it is his job to keep abreast of what is happening in Vermont. He indicated if there was anything their office could do to help this project moving forward to let them know.

Cooperative Agreement: Bryant Watson had a meeting with Dan Petterson regarding this document.

Funding Match: Bryant Watson gave a run down of the issues pending, documentation required, and what will count towards the federal and state match from Vast.

Flood Plan Issue: At least eight projects along the rail bed are planned for work during the coming months to correct issues of flooding. At our next meeting we are asking Barry Cahoon to come and discuss the future work being done by the Agency of Natural Resources. One such project has already been completed in the Wolcott area.

Motion was made, seconded and voted to invite Barry Cahoon to our next meeting.

Assessments on Bridges: It was noted that VTrans will be doing an assessment on the rail bridges along the LVRR next summer. There will be a report issued to review.

Management Plan: VTrans indicated it will take an additional four weeks to complete their review of the final draft. There was also an issue of where we should start work on the rail bed.

The LVRTC non- motorized members strongly support that the first priority is to move forward with the repair and restoration, as it is important to restore the integrity of the rail bed first. There are issues with clogged culverts, missing sections, continuing washouts and areas that have to be stabilized in order to keep this asset from further destruction by nature. Once those issues are addressed, then and at that time we can determine where actual pathway construction begins.

Engineering: Vast has two engineers who are willing to work with the staff at VAST.

Categorical Exclusion: requires that professionals are hired to address historical features, wetlands and environmental issues.

Original RFP: filed by Vast indicated a simple country style multi-use pathway for over 96 miles, which had not been built as such in the past. This was reviewed and accepted by the various review processes at the time over rail, and now we find that federal regulations, state regulations and new construction requirements are turning this project into the state of the art multi-use trail.

Regional Planning Commissions: It was noted that there needs to be a consistent representation from one of the regional planning commissions at our meetings and bringing the LTC to completion and on board. Ted Chase was instructed to write a letter to all three regarding the issue of the LTC.

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Minutes of Meetings: Motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the December 10, 2006 minutes. Motion was also made, seconded and voted to review and approve all minutes at each meeting and only post approved minutes on the Website.

NEXT MEETING - February 14, 2007 at 6:30 PM in Morrisville @ Hillary'.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Motion made, seconded and voted to adjourn.

Margaret L. Bowen, Secretary