

## LVRT Minutes

June 11, 2008, 6:42pm  
Charlemont Restaurant

**Committee Members Present:** Steve Larrabee Laird McDowell, *Chair*  
Chip Sawyer Alan Spitzer Dan Zucker, *Secretary*  
Sharon Ahearn Zeke Zucker, *Vice Chair* Julius 'Red' Goodman  
Mike O'Hara

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**Committee Members Absent:** Dan Hale Dan Favreau (Resigned)

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**Other Attendees:** Alan Roberston, *Project Engineer* Todd Sumner, *LTF Project Mgr*  
Ken Heopner, *Fundraising Consultant* Ethan Ready (*Bernie Sanders Office*)

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by Laird.

**Public Comments:** None

**Secretary's Report (including 5/24 Mgmt Plan Review Meeting):**  
Moved by Zeke, seconded by Chip. Approved.

### Financial Report:

Laird reported, with no further details:

FY Starting Balance	\$28,000.00
FY-to-date Expenditures Ending April 30	-8,908.05
<u>May Expenditures</u>	<u>-3,799.39</u>
FY-to-date Balance Ending May 31	\$15,292.56

The report was moved by Mike O. and seconded by Zeke Z.

**Byrant Watson's Report:** Bryant was not present, no report submitted.

### Alan Roberston's Project Engineering Report:

- Dave Guilderdall at VTrans is making rapid progress on encroachments and the problem in Johnson is resolved [Secretary did not ask for elaboration on what this problem was]. Guilderdall is working through the list given by the LVRTC.
- Alan has had meeting w/ dept. of Agriculture. Ag and ANR are working on NRCS agricultural encroachment issues and working on silt problems due to farm activity.
- Ag newsletter will include adjacent landowner/farmer notice also requesting input on silt removal. We hope that this has a greater response rate than blind mailing.
- Meetings w/ municipalities have started, although only Wolcott, Hardwick and Swanton have taken an active interest so far. The three towns have expressed belief in the myth that the LVRTC project is asking them for money.
- The process of selecting an engineering firm has started, and three firms have expressed interest: DuBois & King, Stantec, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin. All three expressed a belief that summer of 2009 was an appropriate timeframe for beginning construction.

Discussion then ensued about the bridge lost on 2B due to VTrans' hurried, unannounced project for removal of the tracks and abutments. Todd S. reported that he believed the order for the H10 spec bridge was canceled (suggesting, although not asserting) that a bridge supporting H20 loading (appropriate for our project) would be ordered. It was also observed that the replacement 'abutment' was actually just a retaining wall that was deemed inadequate for even that purpose by a number of observers.

Discussion continued on VTrans responsibilities under the lease agreement, their embarrassment at having taken a clumsy approach, and our subsequent responsibility to move forward. Consensus was reached on continuing work w/ VTrans as amicably as possible although no formal action was taken.

#### **Chip Sawyer's LAC Report:**

June meeting was held, Chip S. was re-elected chair and will continue that representation on the LVRTC. Chip reported that the Danville grand list is "discombobulated" and will take additional time to obtain a mailing list.

#### **Friends Report:**

Chip S. had met w/ Heidi Krantz and Becka Rolf on submitting grant application for trailhead improvement. The engineering firm VHB (see Alan R's report above) has a staff professional fund-raiser in case they come on board. There will be a leadership meeting (LVRTC/Friends) on July 9<sup>h</sup> at 4:30 prior to the LVRTC meeting. The location of the Leadership meeting is in Morrisville [Secretary did not get the specific location].

#### **Ethan Ready's Bernie Sanders Office Report:**

General discussion of content of Farm Bill (federal) and Sander's support of the project and desire to see the earmark spent.

#### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

Law Enforcement: None

Communications: Existing website content has been proved to VAST for upload into their CMS. Laird assigned CMS access policy to the communications subcommittee. Sharon A. reported clarification on sub-committee's priorities (self-directed vs. board-directed). Consensus was reached that the board supported the sub-committee to self-direct w/ direct charges from the board chair as needed.

Maintenance: Alan S. reports that based on conversations with "John Q. Public" that most folks don't know what's going on with the trail. Discussion ensued about press releases, radio/TV coverage, websites and mailings. Also proposed was the idea of posting flyers/business cards at town general stores and bulletin boards. Sharon S. requested that further discussion take place within the communications sub-committee (see above) to result in recommendations to the board.

Policy & Development: Zeke Z. asked for clarification on mission wording, slight edit was made. Mission statements to be posted on the website.

Fundraising: Ken H. submitted printed report detailing contacts, prospects and likelihood of successful contacts. Ethan R. suggested a "click-to-donate" feature on website.

#### **New Business:**

- Laird reports that Danny H. is absent because he is at Greensboro Selectboard mtg asking for permission to use town letterhead on landowner mailings in Greensboro.
- Laird reports that the next phase of the Mgmt plan is the public comments phase.
- Mission Statements for sub-committees have been distributed by email, to be made public soon.
- Laird reported that local VAST club will take responsibility for Morrisville bridge that has temporary particle-board cover (subjected to vandalism and decay).

- Laird reminded the board to find a replacement for Dan F., preferably from the same area.
- Mike requested that a copy of the assessment and management plan be sent to Peg, Sandy & Ted. The board agreed.
- Todd S. expressed optimism that VTrans will come through w/ a 'compromise' on the rte 2b bridge replacement.

Mike moved (Zeke seconded) to adjourn at 8:26pm.