

Minutes of the meeting of the LVRTC for Nov. 2008

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Stonegrill restaurant in Morrisville,
By chair Laird McDowell.

Introductions were done, with a good turnout and enough committee members for a quorum. The secretary of the committee being absent, Al Spitzer volunteered to try to take minutes. The following is the results. (my apologies for any misinformation or missing comments, things sometimes happen too quickly in our meetings to catch all of the comments) Motion made by Dave Polow to accept the meeting minutes of October, Voted on and passed.

Financial report by Danny Hale He passed around a paper report with a detailed list of All cash disbursements for the month of October. with the first page being a compiled List and cash balance. Bottom line showing a balance of 82007.89. This was tempered however by sobering news from Bryant that after we pay off all upcoming bills, we will be very low on funds and must come up with a quick way of obtaining operating money, since vast is not advancing us more at this time.

Alan Robertson's report

Wetlands team has spent much time mapping wetlands and setting them up to be read by GPS. Very hard to do because of the lack of direct line of site to the satellite in a lot of places. Historical and archaeological views are also complete. There is lots of work to be done on the Fisher bridge as it is a historical structure. Bryant, Alan and others spent several days on a bus with the scientific team and state and local officials showing them firsthand all of the areas that need a lot of work, and pointing out the benefits of the trail and what it will mean to the area. It convinced a lot of the people to change their mind on their opinion of the trail overall, and they probably will be a lot more solidly behind the concept of the trail because of the tour. Vtrans looked at the last 3 bridges they needed to inspect and closed the Cambridge jct bridge to any and all traffic due to the poor conditions of it. The rt 2 B bridge is currently being worked on by the state and will be ready for the new bridge when it arrives.

Bryant Watson report

The permit process is ongoing and the Categorical Exclusion decision could come in late December. There is much precedent for a trail not needing act 250 permit by other trails already done in the state with no permit needed. Bryant is talking with local club to see about asking the town to let them use the existing covered bridge near Cambridge jct to Across the river for the winter until something can be done about the old rail bridge.

LAC report Chip Sawyer

Chip reported that he is resigning from the committee to work full time for UVM. And that he is replaced on lac by Bethany Remmers. Who will be the new rep to our committee from lac. He would like to see a joint meeting held between lac and the lvrctc to get to know each other better. Laird and the committee officially recognized chip's contributions and efforts on the lvrctc.

Al Robertson mentioned that we need to get ourselves and any local officials we can get to write letters of support for the trail and forward to state and national reps in support of grants to help fund our share of the cost of the project. Also noted that he has seen on the Mississquoi trail evidence of heavy atv use and noticed very little damage, due to the material on the trail, even with little or no maintenance except mowing.

Law Enforcement, no report

Maintenance, no report.

Communications, no report

Fund raising, Ken Hoepner

Ken passed around a fact sheet, basically saying that efforts have been made to try to convince people to donate, nobody seems to want to be the "first one". Only small donations have been made so far, largely because of the economic hard times.

New business

Conversation about letting all committee members know about upcoming meetings with officials, so they will know what and when is happening before it does, instead of at the meeting. This would not necessarily mean anyone would attend, but they could if they wanted.

Laird mentioned he attended a seminar on FEMA cost analysis software and that it looked like something the lvrctc could use in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 by Laird and it was decided that the next meeting would be held in the meeting room at the Plaza Hotel in Northgate plaza, Morrisville, due to the Stonegrill doing Christmas parties in the usual meeting hall. This meeting would be at 6:30 on December 10,th 2008

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