

LVRTC Minutes

October 08, 2008, 6:30 pm
Stonegrill Restaurant & Pub

Committee Members Present:	Steve Larrabee	Laird McDowell, <i>Chair</i>
Bethany Remers (for Chip Sawyer)	Alan Spitzer	Dan Zucker, <i>Secretary</i>
Dave Polow	Zeke Zucker, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Mike O'Hara
Danny Hale	Mike Farmer	
Committee Members Absent:	Julius 'Red' Goodman	
Other Attendees:	<i>Bryant Watson</i>	Todd Sumner, <i>LTF Project Mgr</i>
Jim Hill	Jesse Hudson	

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Laird.

Public Comments: None

Secretary's Report:

Moved by Danny Hale, seconded by Dave Polow. Motion approved.

Financial Report:

Danny H. reported, presented report from VAST with budget and actual expenses-to-date, and asked committee for feedback on financial reporting requirements. Bryant explained report (available from LVRT, VAST on request). Mike F. suggested profit & loss for minimal standard reporting. Committee agreed. No formal action taken.

The report was moved by Mike O. and seconded by Danny H.

Bryant Watson's Report (Combined w/ Alan Robertson's Project Engineering Report due to Al's absence):

- Still no contract w/ Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), due to contract negotiations on insurance, liability.
- Environmental assessment is done. Forward crew is done (w/ identification phase). Follow crew is 7/8 complete for determining GIS coordinates. They're currently in Sheldon Junction as of 10/8.
- Danny H. asked about pink ribbons (relaying questions from his constituents). They'll be there until all the data is verified.
- Next Steps: several weeks to compile the data from VHB/VAST and work on drawings and data for 3 regional mtgs for public input.
- Agreed w/ Friends & LAC to put out Newsletter for mid-december on trail status.
- VHB work is for environmental permitting, not construction permitting. But will be foundation for permit apps for CE, storm-runoff, etc.
- Bryant feels that group that met w/ VTRANS on 10/7 was a good group – next mtg on 10/22 includes ANR, VTRANS, VAST, Primmer/Piper, VHB & others to examine specific sites, prior ditching, repair (vs. 'construction') status of current phase. This will provide basis for determination of Act 250 status.
- Act 250: There are questions about status of railroad. It may have to be resolved in federal court. If the railroad is an “active railroad”, Act 250 does not apply. Fed court ruling would be significant: it it's an “active railroad”, VSA says Act 250 does not apply, also we found 5 species of rare plants on the railbed. We'll produce memorandum of agreement w/ ANR on how to handle plants:
 - St. Johns Wort
 - Dotted Horsemint
 - Heathery Grape Fern
 - Fernald's Sedge
 - Leonard's Skullcap.

LAC Report (Bethany Remers reporting for Chip Sawyer):

They are attempting to assemble their 2009 initiatives. Caledonia County is short on municipal & business reps.

Friends Report:

- Laird reported on LVRTC & Friends' summit mtg. They're looking at grants & loans for small business in rural areas. Talked about a \$500,000 grant and a \$500,000 loan to meet share of Fed grant for project.
- Discussion ensued over whether Fed (USDA) grants and loans can be used for federal match. No resolution.
- Dave P. noted that State Economic Development grants are also available.
- Friends agreed to track data on trailhead projects.
- Friends reminded committee that annual meeting is last week in October (10/23). On their agenda:
 - How to help LOVRTC move forward.
 - Coordinate trailhead tracking
 - joint LVRTC/FRIENDS December newsletter.
- Friends have \$100,000 transportation grant application submitted and can apply for Rural Business Opportunity grant for planning purposes.

Ethan Ready's Bernie Sanders Office Report: Nothing to report (Ethan was not present).

Sub-Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement: Danny H. asked: How do we want to spend remaining \$5k for Sheriff. Committee agreed to not spend it yet.

Communications: Nothing to report.

Maintenance: Nothing to report.

Policy & Development: Zeke mentioned that winter-grooming consistency was mentioned as an issue and would be tackled in near future.

Fundraising: Nothing to Report (Ken H. not present).

New Business:

- Bike touring group trail fees? Other commercial ventures on the path? General discussion ensued, no motion was made, no significant advances on the subject.

Mike O. moved to adjourn at 8:35pm, seconded by Dave P.