



NORTHWEST VERMONT RAIL TRAIL COUNCIL

c/o Northwest Regional Planning Commission
75 Fairfield Street • St. Albans, VT 05478
Phone: 802-524-5958 • Fax: 802-527-2948

APPOINTED

Berkshire-MVRT
Vacant
Enosburg Falls-MVRT
Ellen Stanley
Enosburgh Town-MVRT
Robert Gervais, Sr.
Richford-MVRT
Vacant
St. Albans City-MVRT
Richard Stahl
St. Albans Town-MVRT
Vacant
Fairfield-MVRT/LVRT
Jane Williams
Sheldon-MVRT/LVRT
Vacant
Swanton-MVRT/LVRT
Joel Clark
Bakersfield-LVRT
Vacant
Fletcher-LVRT
Vacant
Highgate-LVRT
Sharon Bousquet

VAST

Mark Bushey

At Large

Don Mueller
Alisha Sawyer
David Stanley
Randy Chadburn
Robert Bessette
Diane Leary

Ex-Officio

* VT Agency of
Transportation

*Northwest Regional
Planning Commission

*VT Dept. of Forests,
Parks, & Recreation

*Franklin County Industrial
Development Corporation

Minutes of Board Meeting held Monday, March 11, 2024

Present: Dave Stanley, Ellen Stanley, Mark Bushey, Jane Williams, Richard Stahl, Randy Chadburn, Joel Clark, Robert Bessette, Elisabeth Nance, Andy Crossman, Don Mueller, Bill Gray (VTrans), Kathy Lavoie, and Kyle Grenier (NRPC).

Chair Dave Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Mark Bushey moved to accept the minutes of the January 15, 2024; seconded by Dave Stanley. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

E. Stanley presented the 4th quarter 2023 financial report (Oct-Dec 2023). Richard Stahl moved to accept the 4th quarter report as presented; seconded by Joel Clark. Motion passed.

Green Up Day – May 4th MVRT and LVRT: More Trails MEANS More Volunteers-

Kathy Lavoie (NRPC) presented information on Green Up Day for LVRT and MVRT. Robert Bessette discussed promotion of event; Dave Stanley spoke about pre-event on MVRT with Amy Adams (NRPC); Mark Bushey spoke about the coordination involved with communities. Additional conversations held later in meeting under Other Business regarding logistics of trash pickup/placement within each community.

Updates

LVRT Community Grant updates (Sheldon Gristmill, Sheldon Junction Trailhead Study, Swanton Trailhead, Highgate & Other)

- **Sheldon Gristmill Project** – Kyle Grenier (NRPC) spoke regarding LVRT Community Grant awarded to Sheldon for Sheldon Grist Mill. Primary focus to be extended/formal parking area and trail access. Council members had general discussion around capitalizing on river access and court area. Kyle explained that status is at level of Preferred Contractor Negotiations.
- **Sheldon Junction Trailhead Study** – Bill Gray (VTrans) spoke regarding status of Feasibility Study, including work with contractor VHB, Public Meetings, Bourdeau Brothers' support and negotiations, access, and ROW. Bill encouraged Council members to attend the next Public Meeting on May 20th at Sheldon Town Office.
- **Swanton Trailhead Community Grant (LVRT)** – Joel Clark (Swanton LVRT Rep.) spoke on the LVRT Community Grant awarded to Swanton for design and development of a Level 1 Trailhead. Joel explained that Environmental Impact has been approved, VHB as Design Agent, Bids out in August with Fall start. Bill Gray asked to attend pre-construction meetings. Joel explained details of Trailhead, including paved parking with direct connection to LVRT, screened in picnic pavilion with tables, and porta potties with hope of permanent restrooms in the future.
- **Highgate- LVRT Level 2 Trailhead** – Sharon Bousquet (Highgate LVRT Rep.) was not present to discuss status of outstanding grants.
- **Franklin County Trails Alliance VOREC Grant** – Andy Crossman (potential At-Large

member for FCTA) spoke regarding VOREC Planning Grant awarded to FCTA, with intentions of using MVRT/LVRT as a means to connect different trail systems and gravel rides in the future. The VOREC Grant is for 8 miles of ridgeline trail (4 up, 4 down) that has preliminary agreement from the private landowners. Sinuosity (which had done Master Plans for Hard'ack and Town Forest) will be the professional design contractor. Bill Gray (VTrans) reminded Andy that they will need Access Agreements for LVRT.

- **Other**

- **LVRT/MVRT 2024 Season (J. Cassino/B.Gray)**

Bill Gray (VTrans) spoke regarding the plans at state level to better serve the rail trails. There is a scheduled cleanup along entire length of MVRT in May, to include removing large debris and clearing ditches. Seasonal mowing contracts for MVRT are complete, scheduled for May/June. LVRT is scheduled for mowing in June. Resurfacing of MVRT will occur 2024.

- **VAST-** Mark Bushey (VAST Rep.) updated Council on the dismal snowmobiling season 23/24, with membership down 10% from previous year. Bill Gray (VTrans) asked for Mark to let him know when signs will need to come down.

- **Regional Rail Trails Summit** – Kathy Lavoie discussed NRPC's desire to host a regional summit around Outdoor Recreation Economy and/or Rail Trail Community Engagement. Idea generally supported by Council; no clarifying questions.

Other Business – Kathy Lavoie (NRPC) reminded members about the Paddle Pedal (Northern Forest Canoe Trail) July 13th and need for volunteers. Andy Crossman (FCTA) reminded members about the Rotary Home Show, March 16/17.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, May 20, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Minutes Approved: July 15, 2024

