



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
Vacant

Richford-MVRT
Vacant

St. Albans City-MVRT
Richard Stahl

St. Albans Town-MVRT
Robert Bessette

Fairfield-MVRT/LVRT
Jane Williams

Sheldon-MVRT/LVRT
Vacant

Swanton-MVRT/LVRT
Joel Clark

Bakersfield-LVRT
Vacant

Fletcher-LVRT
Vacant

Highgate-LVRT
Ty Choiniere

VAST

Mark Bushey

At Large

Don Mueller
Alisha Sawyer
David Stanley
Randy Chadburn
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 Council Meeting held Monday, November 18, 2024

Present/Introduction: Dave Stanley, Mark Bushey, Don Mueller, Richard Stahl, Ellen Stanley, Joel Clark, Jane Williams, Randy Chadburn, Jackie Cassino (VTrans), Karen Sentoff (VHB), Grace Wehrle (VHB), Kyle Grenier (NRPC) and Amy Adams.

Chair Dave Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Adjustment to the Agenda: None

Meeting Minutes

R. Chadburn moved to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2024; seconded by M. Bushey. Motion passed.

Financial Report-

D. Stanley presented the 3RD quarter 2024 financial report (Jul-Sept 2024). M. Bushey moved to accept the 3rd quarter report as presented; seconded by D. Mueller. Motion passed.

VTrans Rail Trails Management Plan (VHB-Karen Sentoff) – VTrans has hired VHB to formulate a plan for all trails. LVRT was completed a few years ago. VHB had a kickoff meeting in September and the next steps are for Stakeholder engagement. They will host group meetings, interviews, and public meetings as well as utilize an interactive map to gather feedback. The project goal is to identify a unified, state-wide vision, identify unique, goal-oriented gaps and needs for each of the trails, identify strategies or projects to improve infrastructure, foster community and culture, and/or manage, maintain and operate each of the trails and the system as a whole. Develop a RT Management Plan with actionable implementation plans for each trail and refined systemwide prioritization of management and maintenance. The Council shared some feedback from safety concerns to trail opportunities. VHB will plan for a Public Meeting in January of February. VHB has produced a QR Code to gather public input.

RT Council Group Engagement Opportunity – J. Cassino proposed an opportunity to the Council to meet with other Councils in other Regions to meet, greet and discuss what is working or not working for the trail systems. Possibly a day meeting in a central location this coming spring.

Updates

- **Sheldon Gristmill Project** – No new updates.
- **Sheldon Junction Trailhead Study** – J. Cassino commented that she is waiting to hear about the funding, should know between Dec-Mar if full funding is available.
- **Swanton Trailhead Community Grant (LVRT)** – Joel Clark (Swanton LVRT Rep) sending out to bid in January, construction in the Spring of 2025.

- **Highgate- LVRT Level 2 Trailhead** – J. Cassino commented that the lease agreement has been completed.
- **Franklin County Trails Alliance VOREC Grant** – No new updates.
- **LVRT/MVRT** – J. Cassino said a planned culvert inventory is possible next season. The MVRT resurfacing project is planned to be completed by October 2025, a contractor has been selected. Vtrans plans to work with Bates Farm Home and Garden for a safer trail area as well as a trail realignment. MVRT Extension, earliest for construction would be in 2026, challenge is crossing Rte 7. K. Grenier commented that St. Albans Town and St. Albans City should intertwine the projects of the Extension and the Shared Use Path so that they work well together.
- **VAST-** Mark Bushey (VAST Rep.) commented that they are working on getting landowner permission for the new season. Prepping and marking trails. VAST membership is open and there is an incentive for Early Bird specials!

Other Business – Discussion about the January meeting being moved up a week because the normal scheduled date falls on a holiday. Council was ok with moving it up.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, January 13, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes Approved: January 13, 2025

