



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, January 15, 2024

Present: Dave Stanley, Ellen Stanley, Mark Bushey, Jane Williams, Richard Stahl, Randy Chadburn, Joel Clark, Sharon Bousquet, Robert Bessette, Diane Leary, Bill Gray (Vtrans), Kathy Lavoie and Amy Adams (NRPC).

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

MEETING MINUTES

R. Stahl moved to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2023; seconded by M. Bushey. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

E. Stanley will present at the March 18, 2024 meeting.

Council Memberships/Resignations: D. Stanley shared the resignation of Carol Hickey as the Berkshire rep and Vice Chair, as a long-term Council member. Randy Chadburn resigned as the St. Albans Town rep and his interest as an At-Large member. Discussion took place about including Elisabeth Nance to represent Franklin County Industrial Dev Corporation as an Ex-Officio. The Council had interested new members attend the meeting: Robert Bessette, former Council member, Diane Leary, Enosburg resident and Judy Searles who was not able to attend but reached out to J. Williams to share her interest. J. Searles is a Richford resident, it was recommended that she reach out to the Richford Town Clerk and SB to share her interest as a rep for the Town. Currently vacant Town seats: Bakersfield, Fletcher, Sheldon, Richford and Berkshire.

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of Officers for 2024

J. Williams nominated D. Stanley for the office of Chair. No other nominations were made. J. Williams moved to elect D. Stanley as Chair; seconded by R. Stahl. D. Stanley conducted the election of Vice- Chair and Treasurer. D. Stanley nominated J. Williams for the office of Vice Chair; D. Stanley nominated E. Stanley for the office of Treasurer. No other nominations were made for the positions. D. Stanley moved to elect nominees; seconded by R. Stahl. Motion passed.

D. Stanley was elected as Chair. J. Williams was elected as Vice Chair. E. Stanley was elected as Treasurer.

Election of members-at-large

J. Williams nominated a slate of 6 candidates: D. Mueller, A. Sawyer, D. Stanley, R. Bessette, R. Chadburn and D. Leary. There being 6 nominees for 10 member-at-large positions. J. Williams moved to elect all 6 nominees; seconded by E. Stanley. Motion passed.

Updates

- **Sheldon Junction Trailhead Study Public Meeting – January 22, 2024** - A. Adams reminded the Council of the upcoming Public Meeting being presented by VHB at the Sheldon Town Clerk Office, 1640 Main Street, Sheldon at 6 PM on Jan 22, 2024.

- **Grants & Funding Sources: NRPC update on Grants Available & Communities update on applications:** K. Lavoie discussed that this would be a regular agenda item to update the Council on active grants and any funding resources that might be available to communities.
 - **Sheldon Gristmill Project** – better utilize space for parking, bathroom and bike rack, not much to update on the project.
 - **Swanton Communities Grant (LVRT)** – J. Clark updated the project is in the NEPA process, hoping for a final design in February, construction July/August and completion by fall. J. Clark offered to be of assistance to other communities as a resource.
 - **Highgate- LVRT Community Grant** –S. Bousquet updated the Council on the Towns application for a Trailhead Pavilion. It will include picnic table, bike rack, kiosk, portable toilet, trash receptacles, bike repair station. The project is proposed for late summer, early fall. This project nicely aligns with the Towns current assets of the arena, the rec trail, historical monuments and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.
 - K. Lavoie mentioned the St. Albans Messenger article about the Franklin County Trails Alliance group and their efforts on expanding trails to make connections to MVRT. K. Lavoie encouraged keeping the support open. K. Lavoie recommended having J. Cassino discuss funding opportunities at the March meeting.
- **NWVT Rail Trail Council Bylaws & Articles-** K. Lavoie discussed that she has been working on some updates and changes that represents actual titles of the Council. NRPC will review the changes and K. Lavoie would like to bring it to the May Council meeting to review and adopt in the coming months.
- **LVRT** – B. Gray noted that the LVRT is open but in rough shape in some areas. They have about 27 damaged areas that they have worked on repairing from the December flood. In the spring they have a couple of major areas that need to be rebuilt and the trail will be closed at certain times.

B. Gray is working on the plans for the resurfacing project for the MVRT with the design team, the trail will be closed during the resurfacing project, dates to come.
- **VAST-** B. Gray commented that VAST has helped clear down trees on the MVRT and LVRT covering a good 10 miles.

OTHER BUSINESS – J. Williams commented that she was on the LVRT and asked about the tree debris on the trail. B. Gray said small debris can be picked up and tossed off the trail. The larger trees need to be reported to Vtrans, send a picture with the location of the area and A. Adams will pass along to Bill or Jackie. VAST tends to the trail from Dec 15- Apr 15th depending on the accumulation of snow on the trail to maintain and groom, the local clubs have great volunteers.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, March 18, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____

