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
Angel Larose
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
Bryan Derry
Swanton-MVRT/LVRT
Joel Clark
Bakersfield-LVRT
Vacant
Fletcher-LVRT
Aimee Tinker
Highgate-LVRT
Vacant

VAST
Mike Farmer

At Large
Andy Crossman
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, March 9, 2026

Present/Introduction: Ellen Stanley, Jane Williams, Richard Stahl, Bryan Derry, Jackie Cassino (VTrans), Dave Stanley, Mike Farmer, Joel Clark, Andy Crossman, Matt Walker, Bill Gray (VTrans), Shaun Coleman and Amy Adams.

Vice Chair Richard Stahl called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Adjustment to the Agenda: None

Meeting Minutes
Bryan Derry moved to accept the minutes of January 20, 2026; seconded by Jane Williams. Motion passed.

Friends of the Trails – 2025 season donations brought in $1,045 compared to 2024 season at $2,295, donations were down primarily from the trail being closed for part of the season. Donations are primarily from visitors and active members.

Green Up Day – May 2nd Volunteer to Lead – Angel Larose will take the lead for the Green Up season. Amy Adams will work with A. Larose in reaching out to Towns to help coordinate volunteers, locations, drop-off locations and other logistics and work with Jackie and Bill for trail specific logistics.

Wayfinding Signage Update – J. Cassino has been working with VHB with the feedback. VHB is updating the design prototype, may include POI. RPC's have updated the list of businesses and the online map is being updated, once completed a link will be shared. No significant changes in the proposed locations of sign locations.

MVRT Management Plan Draft– J. Cassino updated the Council that the State is wrapping up the process, she read through the Vision Statement, Goals and Strategy/Action steps. She asked that Council members review the draft and provide feedback by March 20th directly to her.

Updates

- **Sheldon Junction Trailhead –** This project is going out to bid in the next week for the Design/Permiting work.

- **St. Albans City Trailhead** – A. Adams shared a message from Chris Hunt regarding the current amenities of the picnic table, bench, bike rack and bike repair station that will need to be dismantled from the current location in preparation for the Extension project. The Contractor will be using that area for rail tie storage. A. Adams will reach out to the Council on their recommendation for the items and gather feedback.

- **Swanton Trailhead Community Grant (LVRT)** – Joel Clark announced there will be a opending ceremony in mid May and will let the Council know when a date is confirmed.

- **Highgate- LVRT Level 2 Trailhead** – No update

- **Franklin County Trails Alliance VOREC Grant –** No update

- **Events –** Maplefields is hosting a Big Change Roundup on April 18, 2026. The event will be a 2 mile walk or a 5K run, starting on the rail trail behind Maplefields in Enosburg with a 9 am start.

- **LVRT/MVRT –** B. Gray is hoping for a normal maintenance season ahead. J. Cassino mentioned that last season they were able to complete inventory for over 700 culverts and the goal is to continue this annually with a 33% goal. A sign inventory will also be conducted this season to understand existing signs (location, condition) retire poor condition signs, implement newer standards for roadway directional signs.

- ***VAST-*** M. Farmer updated that they had 4 weeks of grooming in February by the Fletcher Rough Riders and other 2 clubs. The season may be over with the warm up. B. Gray mentioned for next winter season he would like VAST to groom all the way to the trailhead at Robin Hood Drive and for a turn around to be established now that the Swanton Trailhead is completed and plenty of parking. Grooming this season near Bates in Enosburg was a great improvement. Will need to work with Enosburg Town or Village for snow dumping/banks off their sidewalks.

Other Business – A. Adams shared a description for a brochure holder to replace the current ones at the kiosk. The current ones are not waterproof. B. Gray recommended removing the old ones when the replacements are installed. Waiting for a sample to arrive.

NEXT MEETING- May 18, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____*May 18, 2026*_____