

NOTICE AND AGENDA MEETING

The Rail Trail Council for the Northwest Vermont Rail Trail will be meeting on
Monday, September 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM
Remote option below, or in person at 75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans

Information on how to access the remote meeting:

By computer, smartphone, tablet, or other device: Click on the Zoom meeting invite-
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84517176192>

You may be prompted to enter a meeting ID: 845 1717 6192

- Passcode: 620213
- By telephone: Dial +1 646 558 8656. When prompted enter the meeting ID: 845 1717 6192. Regular toll call/cell phone charges may apply.

All meeting participants will first enter a virtual “waiting room” until the meeting organizer opens the meeting.

Please review our "Informational Handout for Remote Public Meetings" to understand how these electronic meetings will be managed. If you wish to make a public comment but do not have the ability to comment remotely during the meeting, please email your comment(s) to Amy Adams at aadams@nrpcvt.com

To ensure smooth access, we recommend that you test your remote meeting software in advance of the meeting. **If you have difficulty accessing the meeting, please email aadams@nrpcvt.com**

Agenda:

1. **Introductions**
2. **Minutes** – May 18, 2026 minutes enclosed
3. **Financial Report** - 2nd quarter 2026 financial report
4. **Franklin County Natural Resource Conservation District-Signage opportunity (Orenna Brand)**
5. **MVRT Management Plan Status (J. Cassino)**
6. **Master License Agreement (MLA) (J. Cassino)**
7. **Council In-Person Meet Up – October 20, 2026**
8. **Updates**
 - **Sheldon Junction Trailhead, MVRT Extension**
 - **LVRT/MVRT**
 - **VAST (M. Farmer)**
9. **Other Business**
10. **Next Meeting** – November 16, 2026

If you cannot attend the meeting, please notify Amy Adams at aadams@nrpcvt.com.

In accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and Vermont's Open Meeting Law, the NRPC will ensure public meeting sites are accessible to all people or provide an opportunity to request accommodations. Requests for free interpretive or translation services, assistive devices, designation of a physical meeting location, electronic access to a meeting, or other requested accommodations, should be made to Amy Adams,

NRPC Title VI Coordinator, at 802- 524-5958 or aadams@nrpcvt.com, no later than 2 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT FOR REMOTE MEETINGS

Remote Public Meetings

All public body meetings for the Northwest Regional Planning Commission will be conducted remotely via electronic means for the duration of Governor Scott's State of Emergency declaration. Whenever feasible, the public will also be able to access and participate in the remote meetings by dialing in through telephone.

Accessing a Meeting

Please refer to each notice and agenda for information on how to access a remote meeting. Please note that whether you join by telephone, computer, or device, you may be put on hold or in a waiting "room" until granted access to the meeting. You also may be muted or restricted from using any chat function until the public comment portion of the meeting.

Participation

All meetings will be conducted in accordance with the respective "Rules of Procedure" of each public body, to the extent practicable. The public body will follow its agenda and allow public attendees to participate through voice (audio) means where feasible or alternatively using any chat function during the designated public comment periods on the agenda and at other applicable times as needed.

Initially, the meeting's host/organizer will mute all participants that are not members of the public body. This is necessary to control background noise. The host/organizer will then unmute participants or allow participants to unmute themselves when invited to speak by the Chair of the public body.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The Chair will invite comment:
 - during the time designated on the agenda for public comment;
 - after the public body discusses each agenda item;
 - before the public body takes action;
 - during any open public comment period, if applicable; and
 - other times as determined by the public body.

- When a participant/attendee is unmuted, they must state their name before commenting.

When the public body adjourns the meeting, the host/organizer will end the electronic meeting by turning off/closing the remote meeting software. Attendees will be automatically disconnected.

Minutes and other public records that were part of the meeting will be made available in accordance with VT's Open Meeting and Public Records Laws.

To learn more about Remote Public Meetings and the Open Meeting Law, please visit the Secretary of State's Municipal Assistance webpage at <https://sos.vermont.gov/municipal-division/laws-resources/covid-19-response/>.



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
Scott Fitzstephens

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, May 18, 2026

Present/Introduction: Ellen Stanley, Jane Williams, Richard Stahl, Bryan Derry, Jackie Cassino (VTrans), Dave Stanley, Mike Farmer, Joel Clark, Andy Crossman, Angel Larose, Scott Fitzstephens, Matt Walker, Bill Gray (VTrans), Richard Amore (Local Motion), Nicole Draper (Swanton Rec), Amy Adams, Planning Commission- St. Albans City-Chip Sawyer, Paul Olshan, Ray Stahl, Michael Nicholas, Michael Gawne, Janis Appel, Ryan Cleare and Dan Rohrbach.

Chair Dave Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

R. Stahl moved to accept the minutes of March 9, 2026; seconded by *A. Crossman*.
Motion passed.

Financial Report - E. Stanley presented the 1st quarter 2026 financial report (Jan-Mar 2026).
R. Stahl moved to accept the 1st quarter report as presented; seconded by *D. Stanley*.
Motion passed.

St. Albans City Trailhead & Extension – Chip Sawyer gave an update on the new parking area plan, shared the plans with the cost estimate of \$510,000, with a funding gap of \$250,000. The City applied for a Recreation Trail Program grant which was not granted. Ultimately, the project may be scaled back due to funding. Concerns were discussed with the Route 7 crossing, Jackie Cassino offered to meet at an upcoming St. Albans City Planning Commission meeting to review the plans for this crossing and address any questions the PC may have.

Local Motion LVRT Mini Grants – Richard Amore gave an overview of what Local Motion offers and their mission for statewide pedestrian and bicycle organization focused on making it safe, accessible, and fun to bike, walk, and roll in Vermont. There are resources available from the dissolution of the *Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Group* which will be deployed this summer. Aims to strengthen connections between rail trail and community centers/main streets. Application Process: A brief survey/application form will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Support will be provided for 1-2 communities per county.

MVRT Management Plan Status – J. Cassino updated that the draft management plan for *MVRT* will be circulated and hosted on the *Agency of Transportation (AOT)* website for additional comments, which will be added an appendix.

Updates

Green Up Day Recap – Angel Larose generally cleaner than previous year, but *Richford Trailhead* had an issue with discarded doggy bags. Discussion about signage or deterrents for dog waste disposal.

LVRT Pause Places – J. Cassino shared an opportunity for funding for a corridor-wide planning and feasibility project for rest stops/pause places primarily focused along the LVRT but potential for *MVRT* if communities express an interest. Examples: benches, bike racks, interpretive signs, shade trees, art (historic, natural resources). Not intended as parking areas. Each community identifies 3 locations (natural, scenic, historic areas/vistas), coordinates locations corridor-wide, prioritizes based on distance between trailheads/villages. Lead for the project is Lamoille County Planning Commission, pre-application due mid August, notify LCPC by late June of interest. Match requirement 20-50% local match.

Sheldon Junction Trailhead – AOT awarded contract to *Stantec* for design and engineering phase; work expected to start early June.

Swanton Trailhead Community Grant (LVRT) – Joel Clark updated that the trail is well-used, attracting visitors from other states. Event was well-organized on May 16th. Great attendance.

Highgate- LVRT Level 2 Trailhead – No updates on *Highgate* improvements, though a Recreational Trails Program grant was received last year for the parking area.

Franklin County Trails Alliance VOREC Grant – A. Crossman updated they received memorial fund for a bike scholarship for kids. Planning a bike rodeo safety event with the police department. Discussion on e-bike safety education, especially for new riders.

Northern Forest Canoe – Paddle/Pedal Event July 11th – Karrie Thomas reached out for volunteers for the day of the event to help with traffic, sign in, etc. Reach out to her at karrie@northernforestcanoetrail.org.

LVRT/MVRT – B. Gray updated there is a sinkhole in Sheldon (MVRT) off from Sweet Hollow Road AOT is addressing. Should be minimal impact to rail trail users, one lane of traffic will remain open during the week, construction anticipated this field season. Mowing is scheduled as usual, starting first week of June on the *MVRT*, then northern/western *LVRT*.

VAST- M. Farmer updated snow has cleared, quiet currently. Swanton grooming, discussion with Snowmobile Club about extending groomer turnaround in Swanton. They are interested, potentially using opposite spur or cutting a U-turn in woods

Other Business – Trail Ambassador Program: J. Cassino updated the Council that AOT is planning a soft launch of the program onto the *MVRT* this season. Orientation for new Ambassadors is being planned in Swanton, date TBD. Basic training, supplies for volunteers. Details and application available on the VTrans rail trail webpage under "Get Involved."

NEXT MEETING- July 20, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____

Amy Adams (NRPC)

From: Ellen Stanley <estanley802@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 6:00 PM
To: Amy Adams (NRPC)
Subject: Treas. Q2

Q2 - 2026	
April 1 - June 30	
Income	
Interest	\$1.55
Expenses	
Account Balances June 30	
RT Checking	\$3,184.62
RT MM Savings	\$20,886.88
Total \$	\$24,071.50