

NOTICE AND AGENDA MEETING

The Rail Trail Council for the Northwest Vermont Rail Trail will be meeting on
Monday, July 15, 2024 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/89627861212>

You may be prompted to enter a meeting ID: 896 2786 1212.

- Passcode: 121254
- By telephone: Dial +1 646 558 8656. When prompted enter the meeting ID: 896 2786 1212. 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/Potential new members**
2. **Minutes – March 11, 2024 minutes enclosed**
3. **Financial Report - 1st & 2nd quarter 2024 financial reports enclosed**
4. **Sheldon Jct LVRT/MVRT Trailhead Public Meeting (flyer enclosed)**
5. **Updates**
 - **LVRT Community Grant updates (Sheldon Gristmill, Sheldon Junction Trailhead Study, Swanton Trailhead, Highgate & Other)**
 - **Grants & Funding Sources: NRPC Update on Grants Available & Communities Updates on Applications**
<https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/recreation-grants/vorec-community-grant-program>
<https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreational-trails-program>
 - **LVRT/MVRT 2024 Season (J. Cassino/B.Gray)**
 - **Interactive Mapping Project**
 - **VAST (M. Bushey)**
6. **Other Business**
7. **Next Meeting – September 16, 2024**

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, the NRPC will ensure public meeting sites are accessible to all people or provide an opportunity for individuals to request special accommodations. Requests for free interpretive or translation services, assistive devices, 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 3 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
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: _____

Amy Adams

From: Ellen Stanley <estanley802@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Amy Adams
Subject: Q1 & Q2 Treasurer's Reports

Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council			
Q1-2024		Q2 - 2024	
Jan 1 - Mar 31		April 1 - June 30	
Income		Income	
Membership	\$1,263.55	Membership	\$108.91
Interest	\$1.47	Interest	\$1.48
Total	\$1,265.02	Total	\$110.39
Expenses		Expenses	
Chamb. Comm.	\$89.00	St. A Museum	\$25.00
		S. Stahl Memorium	
Account Balances March 31		Account Balances June 30	
RT Checking	\$1,444.62	RT Checking	\$1,499.62
RT MM Savings	\$19,831.73	RT MM Savings	\$19,862.12
Total \$	\$21,276.35	Total \$	\$21,361.74



SHELDON JUNCTION Trailhead


Final Public Information Meeting



 **Monday, Aug. 19, 2024**

 **6:00 pm**

 **Sheldon Town Office**
1640 Main Street
Sheldon, VT 05483

 For comments or questions
please contact Branden Roberts
at broberts@vhb.com

Please join us for the final public meeting of the LVRT/ MVRT Sheldon Junction Trailhead project. Come share your thoughts regarding the draft Scoping Study Report, potential improvements to the Sheldon Junction trailhead, as well as your ideas for improving safety and connectivity for all trail users.