



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

Minutes of Board Meeting held Monday, November 20, 2023

APPOINTED

Berkshire-MVRT
Carol Hickey

Enosburg Falls-MVRT
Ellen Stanley

Enosburgh Town-MVRT
Robert Gervais, Sr.

Richford-MVRT
Vacant

St. Albans City-MVRT
Richard Stahl

St. Albans Town-MVRT
Randy Chadburn

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

Ex-Officio
* VT Agency of
Transportation

*Northwest Regional
Planning Commission

*VT Dept. of Forests,
Parks, & Recreation

Present: Dave Stanley, Ellen Stanley, Mark Bushey, Jane Williams, Don Lamont (Vtrans), Jackie Cassino (Vtrans), Richard Stahl, Randy Chadburn, Don Mueller, Sharon Bousquet, Kyle Grenier (NRPC) and Amy Adams.

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

LVRT UPDATE/STAFF – J. Cassino introduced Don Lamont as the newest staff member to the Rail Trail Program with Vtrans. D. Lamont will be working alongside B. Gray to maintain all the trail systems. LVRT NW sections are still open. They are working on the last 15 miles of trail that is still closed. With 4 more projects to repair: bridges, culverts and culvert repairs, in hopes of completion in the spring.

MEETING MINUTES

R. Stahl moved to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2023; seconded by M. Bushey. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

E. Stanley presented the 3rd quarter 2023 financial report (Jul-Sept 2023). M. Bushey moved to accept the 3rd quarter report as presented; seconded by R. Stahl. Motion passed.

Updates

- **Trail Counts -** K. Grenier, NRPC Transportation Planner shared the bike/ped counter data that was collected this past season on the MVRT in several locations (St. Albans Trailhead, Green's Corner -West, Sheldon Jct – East on bridge, Richford Trailhead, Green's Corner – East), data was emailed to Council and Vtrans. K. Grenier is working on building a base for counts and in the future planning to continue counts on the MVRT and LVRT as well. Permanent data counters will be installed on both trails by Vtrans.
- **Season Wrap-up:**
 - Vtrans was able to accomplish 2 mowings by Summit Contracting as well as a heavy cut-back from mm 10 to mm 26 (Sheldon-Richford). Vtrans is in hopes of a resurfacing project for the entire MVRT in the next season, possibly. The new picnic tables, cement pads and bike racks are holding up well. The box on the St. Albans Trailhead kiosk has broken off, Council will re-attach it in the spring, it is currently stored in the NRPC garage.
 - J. Cassino updated on the meeting with the Bates concern from May. Bates agreed to move some equipment, RT staff revisited the site last week and no physical changes have occurred. Next steps will be to serve Bates with an encroachment legal letter and AOT will survey that area. Barrier items will need to be addressed in that area prior to resurfacing project. J. Cassino asked that VAST keep them updated if there are any issues with the season. M. Bushey commented that is a dangerous area with grooming with the trailer so close to the crossing and they also plow snow onto the trail, making it difficult to clean the trail.

- J. Cassino recommended inviting Chris Hunt to the January or March Council meeting to discuss the resurfacing project specifics and timeline.
- **VAST-** M. Bushey reported the VAST clubs are out putting up trail stakes for the opening of the trail on December 15th. From the July flood their estimated 2 million in damages to the VAST trail network.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- J. Cassino updated on the Sheldon Junction Trailhead Study with VHB. Project kickoff meeting was on Nov 15th, Steering Committee consists of VHB, Vtrans, NRPC, Bourdeau Bros, Randy Chadburn and RT Council. VHB was on site today and they are scheduling a local concern meeting tentative January 22, 2024.
- Grant opportunities: LVRT Community Grant, open to LVRT towns for scoping and feasibility study, trailhead, design construction. VOREC has funding available for same types of projects, but for all trails. LVRT won the People’s Choice Award, AOT received \$10,000, which will be donated to the Vermont Community Foundation’s Flood Relief Fund to support communities along the LVRT that sustained flood damage in July!

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, January 15, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____ *January 15, 2024* _____

