



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 MEMBERS

St. Albans City
Jim Smith

St. Albans Town
Robert Bessette

Swanton
Betsy Fournier

Fairfield
Jane Williams

Sheldon
Marie Brouillette

Enosburg Town
Robert Gervais, Sr.

Enosburg Falls
Ellen Stanley

Berkshire
Carol Hickey

Richford
Vacant

VAST
Mark Bushey

At Large
Don Mueller
Alisha Sawyer
David Stanley
Cynthia Scott

Ex-Officio

VT Agency of
Transportation

Northwest Regional
Planning Commission

VT Dept. of Forests,
Parks, & Recreation

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, January 11, 2021 Zoom Meeting

Present: Dave Stanley, Carol Hickey, Ellen Stanley, Cynthia Scott, Amy Adams, Adelle Brunstad, Jim Smith, Don Mueller, Jane Williams, Mark Bushey, Bethany Remmers, William Gray, Levi Irish and Charen Fegard.

Chair Dave Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

C. Scott moved to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2020; seconded by C. Hickey. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

C. Scott presented the 4th quarter 2020 financial report (Oct 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020). M. Bushey moved to accept the 4th quarter reports as presented; seconded by C. Hickey. Motion passed.

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of members-at-large

D. Stanley conducted the election of the members-at-large. C. Hickey nominated a slate of 4 candidates: D. Mueller, A. Sawyer, D. Stanley and C. Scott. There being 4 nominees for 10 member-at-large positions. *D. Mueller moved to cast a ballot to elect all 4 nominees; seconded by J. Williams. Motion passed.*

Election of Officers for 2021

C. Hickey conducted the election of Chair. C. Hickey nominated D. Stanley for the office of Chair. No other nominations were made. D. Stanley conducted the election of Vice-Chair and Treasurer. C. Scott nominated C. Hickey for the office of Vice Chair; C. Hickey nominated C. Scott for the office of Treasurer. No other nominations were made for the positions. *J. Williams moved to elect all 3 nominees; seconded by D. Mueller. Motion passed.*

D. Stanley was elected as Chair. C. Hickey was elected as Vice Chair. C. Scott was elected as Treasurer.

Potential Grant Opportunities – A. Brunstad informed the Council that she was working on submitting a Vermont Arts Council Animating Infrastructure grant on behalf of the Council. The idea is to focus on public art along the trail, and the total grant amount is \$15,000 to cover costs for a design and implementation phase. A. Brunstad will work with a local metal sculpture artist, Louisa Ulrich-Verderber, to design and construct two sculptures: one at the St. Albans trailhead and another potentially at the intersection of the MVRT and LVRT in Sheldon.

We will include community in the design of the art by distributing an awareness and feedback campaign via a short survey called “Get the Word out” to ask target populations:

1. “What are words that come to mind when you think of the MVRT?”
2. “What words come to mind when you think of the Northwest region of Vermont?”
3. “Do you have a story you’d like to share which reflects the personality of the region and/or the MVRT?”

There will be five main target populations: high schools, historical societies, the local Abenaki population, our NRPC board, and local art and recreation groups. NRPC will then compile these words into a word cloud to display the most frequently mentioned words. Our artist will then use the word cloud and stories to inform three different designs for the two sculptures — all of which will first be approved by VTrans. At a Rail Trail Council meeting, which includes diverse residents from all over the region, people will vote on the winning design.

We hope to create two sculptures and integrate elements into those sculptures that reflect four main ideas: (1) the community’s view of the MVRT and the region, (2) the trail’s history, (3) current attributes and usages of the trail, and (4) our new trail branding. We will know Jan. 29 if our project was selected; then we will develop a full proposal with a complete budget, timeline, etc. If our full proposal is selected, we will begin the design/community outreach phase in May.

The Council had also expressed interest in a mural (or murals) along the MVRT. A. Brunstad is helping to submit a Better Places grant application to have a mural in the center of Enosburg and a mural in the center of Richford —and both near recreation paths. The Enosburg mural would be on the side of Margo Sherwood’s Real Estate building next to the MVRT, and the Richford mural would be on the wall of The Overlook near the town’s recreation path/area. This grant is for a max of \$20,000. We are developing the application now, and we will know the week of Feb. 15 if we will be awarded funds.

SE Group Update – A. Adams updated the Council that the website is going live mid January. G. Brunswick has been working with the Community Economic Development staff to add trail friendly businesses.

UPDATES

- *VAST* – M. Bushey commented that the snowmobile signs are back up on the trail in the Sheldon area. There has been two trail closures this season due to land owners closing certain areas from Sheldon to Berkshire and Highgate to the Canadian border. The club is working on a new route. The trail has been groomed from Berkshire to St. Albans.
- *List of Friends 2020* – A. Adams shared the complete list for 2020 of current and new members and donations.

OTHER BUSINESS –

- W. Grey from Vtrans gave an update regarding Bridge 845 in Sheldon, a survey crew inventoried the integrity of the bridge and the suggestion is to repair the wingwall, it will be an extensive project.
- E. Stanley brought up a concern regarding the safety of using the RT during the hunting season and Council members suggested notifying Fish and Wildlife with concerns, Josh Hungerford (Fish and Wildlife) 524-5993.
- The Council suggested a ceremony at the intersection of LVRT and MVRT when that area is completed. W. Grey said there is more work to complete for Phase 1, but when it gets closer to completion he will notify us.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, March 15, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____ March 15, 2021

