



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
Robert Bessette

Fairfield-MVRT/LVRT
Jane Williams

Sheldon-MVRT/LVRT
Vacant

Swanton-MVRT/LVRT
Joel Clark

Bakersfield-LVRT
Vacant

Fletcher-LVRT
Vacant

Highgate-LVRT
Ty Choiniere

VAST
Mark Bushey

At Large
Don Mueller
Alisha Sawyer
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 Board Meeting held Monday, July 15, 2024

Present: Dave Stanley, Mark Bushey, Jane Williams, Randy Chadburn, Joel Clark, Andy Crossman, Don Mueller, Bill Gray (VTrans), Kathy Lavoie and Amy Adams.

Chair Dave Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

R. Chadburn moved to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2024; seconded by M. Bushey. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

D. Stanley presented the 1st & 2nd quarter 2024 financial report (Jan-Jun 2024). R. Chadburn moved to accept the 1st & 2nd quarter reports as presented; seconded by M. Bushey. Motion passed.

Sheldon Jct LVRT/MVRT Trailhead Public Meeting –

Encouraged Council members to attend the final Public Meeting on August 19th at Sheldon Town Office with VHB presenting the preferred alternative.

Updates

LVRT Community Grant updates (Sheldon Gristmill, Sheldon Junction Trailhead Study, Swanton Trailhead, Highgate & Other)

- **Sheldon Gristmill Project** – Still in the process of finding potential ways to move the project forward.
- **Sheldon Junction Trailhead Study** – (update above)
- **Swanton Trailhead Community Grant (LVRT)** – Joel Clark (Swanton LVRT Rep.) commented that there is a site visit on July 23rd. Project will be released for bid on July 17th, bids will be opened on August 7th or 9th. The Town is hoping to start work shortly.
- **Highgate- LVRT Level 2 Trailhead** – K. Lavoie shared details for the Highgate project, the Town possibly needs a lease agreement, they are sending details to VAOT. They are awaiting ACT 250 clearance, but the Permit Navigator has shown no environmental restraints in that area. The Town will also be seeking an easement for underground power from the existing utility pole.
- **Franklin County Trails Alliance VOREC Grant** – Andy Crossman (potential At-Large member for FCTA) spoke regarding VOREC Planning Grant awarded to FCTA. The master plan is for 80 miles of ridgeline from the Town Forest to Green Corners. A public forum will be held at Hard'ack. The group is currently working with stakeholders, VAOT and landowners and plan to start work next month.

- **LVRT/MVRT 2024 Season** - Bill Gray (VTrans) updated the Council of the recent flooding damage and areas of concern. Consisted of 60 sites of damage, from culverts, surface areas and bridges with much debris. The LVRT in FC had 7 sites of damage. B. Gray shared photos of the damaged areas. He stressed that “Closed Trails” need to be adhered to, these are dangerous, unstable areas. He is asking trail users to respect the trail signs as it’s a matter of safety for all. All mowing for the first round has been completed. The 2nd mowing is being worked out. Resurfacing the MVRT is still on track for this season. B. Gray asked that no little flags be stuck in chipmunk holes especially as they prep for the resurfacing project, as these can do damage to equipment. K. Lavoie suggested using the Ambassador Program to help spread the word about safety in closed areas of the trail(s). R. Chadburn asked what the surface material would be for MVRT, B. Gray replied that they have trail surface specifications for materials to follow and overtime that material will be compacted, it just takes time and with the rain, the fines get washed out.
- **VAST-** Mark Bushey (VAST Rep.) updated Council on the Annual Meeting which will be held on September 7th in Bridport. NEK had washed out trails and bridges, the clubs need a lot of help to get the trails open.
- **Interactive Mapping Project** – A. Adams commented that the project is wrapping up with CRO Planning & Design and the Rail Trails Program will be rolling out the new platform for all four trails. Once it is completed, it will be shared with the Council.

Other Business – None

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, September 16, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____ September 16, 2024

