



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
Richard Stahl

St. Albans Town
Randy Chadburn

Swanton
Vacant

Fairfield
Jane Williams

Sheldon
Dianne Crane

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

Ex-Officio

VT Agency of
Transportation

Northwest Regional
Planning Commission

VT Dept. of Forests,
Parks, & Recreation

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, January 16, 2023 Zoom Meeting

Present: Dave Stanley, Carol Hickey, Ellen Stanley, Don Mueller, Mark Bushey, Randy Chadburn, Richard Stahl, Jane Williams, Kathy Lavoie and Amy Adams.

Chair Dave Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

R. Stahl moved to accept the minutes of the November 21, 2022; seconded by M. Bushey. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

E. Stanley presented the 4th quarter 2022 financial report (Oct 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022). D. Stanley moved to accept the 4th quarter report as presented; seconded by R. Stahl. Motion passed.

NWVT Rail Trail Council Structure: K. Lavoie from NRPC will be tasked with the formation of LVRT within our region. She shared with the Council the structure that is proposed by the State. Additional towns will join the NWVT Council which will expand to include Highgate, Bakersfield and Fletcher. NWVT already has current appointed members from Swanton, Fairfield and Sheldon. MVRT is the suggested model for the rest of the State, as it works well. The next steps will be to review the Bylaws and Articles, which will address officer positions (actuals), board memberships (who it might reach out to expand along the region to include Regional Partners) and the state and regional structure. It will also include in the distant future some website revisions to wrap both MVRT and LVRT into one site until the State has a plan for hosting websites. Which will need to have a place holder for events along the lengths of the trails and who to contact. R. Chadburn asked where the RT Coordinator would fit in. A. Adams commented that there currently would be no changes, the Council will still reach out to her and she will coordinate with the State.

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of members-at-large

D. Stanley conducted the election of the members-at-large. D. Stanley nominated a slate of 3 candidates: D. Mueller, A. Sawyer and D. Stanley. There being 3 nominees for 10 member-at-large positions. *M. Bushey moved to cast a ballot to elect all 3 nominees; seconded by C. Hickey. Motion passed.*

Election of Officers for 2023

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. J. Williams nominated C. Hickey for the office of Vice Chair; D. Stanley nominated E. Stanley for the office of Treasurer. No other nominations were made for the positions. *J. Williams moved to elect all 3 nominees; seconded by R. Chadburn. Motion passed.*

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

Updates

- **VOREC update:** Additional items have been purchased for the trail. Polywood picnic tables (2) and bike racks w/ flanges (2) Kane Road and Greens Corner on the new slabs. A new parking sign to replace the one at Sheldon behind Bourdeau Bros. A contractor has been hired to install the items when spring allows for ground work. If there are additional funds from this grant, Council suggested the rail fence behind Bourdeau Bros being fully replaced. Also, purchasing additional steel posts to store for future use. There will be (2) picnic tables that will be replaced with the polywood ones, Council suggested moving to MM 4.5 off from Sweet Hollow Road.
- **Future celebration of MVRT (25+ years) & LVRT (opening)** Discussion took place for a grand opening with the Governor and to focus on coordinating across the entire trail. No official opening date for LVRT but the Council would like to tie in celebrating 25+ years of the MVRT and promote all the great things that are happening within the regions. Event maybe at the Junction in Sheldon and then along the region have the Governor make stops along the way.
- **Enosburgh Rec Event** Dog sled event is planned mid-February, location will be the field off the trail off from White Road in Enosburgh.
- **LVRT update** – K. Lavoie shared the Sheldon Junction parking area has received money for a study, she will update the Council through email with meeting dates for anyone interested in attending.
- **VAST** – M. Bushey updated on the Christmas storm damage, local volunteers and clubs cleaned up down trees and trail stakes. Cold Hollow Bear Cats and Northwest Riders spent 14 hours on the MVRT and 12 hours on the LVRT cleaning up. December, they had 14,500 members, budget of \$20,000. E. Stanley shared her appreciation for the VAST crew.

OTHER BUSINESS – Northern Forest Canoe Trail-Peddle/Paddle event July 15th coordinate volunteers. Concerns were discussed regarding a mountain bike event that is planned for May, from Cambridge to St. Albans City. R. Stahl is concerned that no permits have been filed and this is a large event with estimated 1,500-2,000 riders. The group will need to work with Vtrans on the proper permits, law enforcement and EMS to cover safety concerns.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, March 20, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____ March 20, 2023