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
Bakersfield-LVRT
Vacant
Berkshire-MVRT
Angel Larose
Enosburg Falls-MVRT
Ellen Stanley
Enosburgh Town-MVRT
Vacant
Richford-MVRT
Vacant
St. Albans City-MVRT
Richard Stahl
St. Albans Town-MVRT
Robert Bessette
Fairfield-MVRT/LVRT
Jane Williams
Sheldon-MVRT/LVRT
Bryan Derry
Swanton-MVRT/LVRT
Joel Clark
Bakersfield-LVRT
Vacant
Fletcher-LVRT
Aimee Tinker
Highgate-LVRT
Vacant

VAST
Mike Farmer

At Large
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 Council Meeting held Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Present/Introduction: Ellen Stanley, Jane Williams, Richard Stahl, Randy Chadburn, Bryan Derry, Jackie Cassino (VTrans), Dave Stanley, Mike Farmer, Angel Larose and Amy Adams.

Chair Dave Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Adjustment to the Agenda: None

Meeting Minutes
R. Stahl moved to accept the minutes of November 17, 2025; seconded by A. Larose. Motion passed.

Financial Report-
E. Stanley presented the 4th quarter 2025 financial report (Oct-Dec 2025). D. Stanley moved to accept the 4th quarter report as presented; seconded by R. Chadburn. Motion passed.

ANNUAL MEETING
Election of Officers for 2026
R. Stahl nominated D. Stanley for the office of Chair. No other nominations were made.
R. Stahl moved to elect D. Stanley as Chair; seconded by R. Chadburn.

D. Stanley conducted the election of Vice-Chair and Treasurer. D. Stanley nominated R. Stahl for the office of Vice Chair; B. Derry nominated E. Stanley for the office of Treasurer. No other nominations were made for the positions. D. Stanley moved to elect nominees; seconded by R. Chadburn. Motion passed.

D. Stanley was elected as Chair. R. Stahl was elected as Vice Chair. E. Stanley was elected as Treasurer.

Election of members-at-large
D. Stanley nominated a slate of 4 candidates: D. Stanley, R. Chadburn, D. Leary and A. Crossman. There are 4 nominees for 10 member-at-large positions. D. Stanley moved to elect all 4 nominees; seconded by R. Stahl. Motion passed.

Wayfinding Signage – J. Cassino reviewed the details for the Wayfinding project sharing the link where Council can provide feedback. J. Cassino reviewed the intersection areas of concern for trail users traveling in high volume roadways. The Council can assess every intersection for safety concerns and give feedback by contacting J. Cassino.

MVRT Management Plan Draft– J. Cassino updated the Council she just received a draft from VHB. A. Adams will circulate a copy for the Council to review and add this for a March

agenda item for a more indepth review.

Updates

- **Sheldon Junction Trailhead –** No updates

- **St. Albans City Trailhead** – A. Adams commented that Chip Sawyer has asked the Council and NRPC provide a letter of support for their application to construct the new trailhead parking area. The City is applying for a Recreational Trails Program grant through VT Forest Parks and Rec. A. Adams will draft a letter and D. Stanley will review and sign as well as NRPC representation.

- **Swanton Trailhead Community Grant (LVRT)** – Joel Clark wanted to pass along that the Swanton trailhead is complete and they are looking to have a formal opening in the Spring!

- **Highgate- LVRT Level 2 Trailhead** – J. Cassino updated that the Highgate Town has a Recreational Trails grant and hope to move forward with some improvmements this construction season.

- **Franklin County Trails Alliance VOREC Grant –** No updates

- **LVRT/MVRT –** J. Cassino commented they are working on a plan your trip state page, making it more efficient for visitors.

- ***VAST-*** M. Farmer updated that the trail opened for 3 days but the snow conditions are limiting the use. A section of trail in the Richford area has now been closed, leaving limited access in the county.

Other Business – R. Chadburn addressed his concern from the November meeting regarding the Route 78 crossing in E. Highgate. He said a solution may be signage warning the trail user of a dangerous crossing, leaving it up to the trail user to take action, ie dismount from bike/walk across the intersection.

Walk/Bike Summit – May 8th in Bennington.

A. Adams is concerned about the brochure holders at the trail kiosks, they are not weatherproof and the brochures end up getting wet. Asked the Council to consider a new system for the upcoming season.

NEXT MEETING- March 9, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____