

VT TRAILS & GREENWAYS COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
Thursday March 22,2001

Present: Lenore Budd, Eric Sharnberg, Amy Bell, Kevin Russell, Ed Leary, Paul Moffat, Kevin Murphy, Brenda Lasell, Morris Lasell, Heidi Krantz, Betsy C-Philbrick, Robert C-Philbrick, Anne Peyton, Lynn Dow, Frank Stanley, Gray Stevens, Carolyn Callahan.

1. Business:

A. Amy Bell (acting Chair) called the meeting to order @ 9:15am. Lacking one person, a quorum of the Board was not yet present (snow delays) so the Secretary and Treasurers reports were deferred– see Business: C. & D. below.

B. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Updates:

A. Jennifer Waite sent word that Newsletter material could be sent to her this week.

B. Council Brochure – Bonnie was sick but sent word that she had not yet incorporated the comments received after the January, 11 Meeting.

C. VT Trails & Greenways Planning Manual of December 1993 –Kevin’s task group has not met. He asked Ed Leary if the original draft was on “floppy discs.”. If so it will be a simpler job to update the document.

Action: Carolyn Callahan will contact Susan Bulmer and the writer/contractor.

D. Act 250 jurisdiction on trails – The “Proposed Environmental Board Policy, Recreation Trails” 01/09/01 draft appended to the January Council minutes has not been acted upon per Kevin Murphy. Kevin did say that any Trail designated as a part of the VT Trail System would be exempt by law. The VT Trails Act has the specific language. Lots of discussion took place- result...If a trail segment passes through land that had a previous Act 250 Permit then the trail sponsors should look at the document for specifics as to what is permitted for that segment.

Action: Ben Rose is asked to follow up with Ginny Mcgrath re: the status of the Ev. Board Policy and report at the May Meeting.

E. Natural Resources Stewardship Fund – Ed Leary reported that this is part of the Appropriations Bill currently in the House Appropriations Committee (memo attached). There is opposition by the Logging lobby and voices for support are missing. Ed Leary said that 200K acres of State land had been added to FP&R ‘s management responsibility in the last few years and the staff was cut by 10%.

Action: Members -contact your Reprisintivies and Senators.

Ben Rose and Amy Bell are to send a letter from the Council ASAP to the legislature in support of the Stewardship Fund. The letter should say that was the consensus of the Council at both the January and March Meetings that we support this.

F. Rock & Ice Climbing – not an issue now per telcon by Gray Stevens

- G. ATV Task Force – Ed Leary provided the Environmental Impact Study overview attached. The UVM Study indicated that ATV's can severely impact the land and recommended that the State continue the Policy of probation on State Lands. There is a \$300 fine currently in effect as set up by Administrative Rule. For the complete UVM Report - WWW.anr.state.vt.us/anr/atv_nov20_final.pdf Kevin Murphy added that there are 162K ATV's in Vermont and only 6K are registered. There is a proposed Bill S: 42 in Committee now to establish an ATV Council (like VT Trails & Greenways) so that State funding can go to establishing ATV Trails.

Action: Members contact their Legislators to express your opinion.

- H. Recreation Trails Grant Program Selection Committee appointments. Ed Leary Asked that this be deferred to the May Meeting. Peter Strobridge is looking for three replacements for current committee members will not be continuing next year. Nominations for the Cities & Towns, At Large and State positions are to be reviewed by the Council at the May Meeting.

Action: Peter Strobridge, FP&R is to be invited to present these and also to be present for a discussion of the Trails Grant Program at that meeting. There was disappointment expressed that more Projects were not funded. Only Large organizations seem to be funded

Business: with the arrival of Gray Stevens (finally plowed out) a quorum was present.

- A. The minutes of the January, 11 Meeting were approved as presented. Motion: Kevin Murphy, 2nd: Lenore Budd (acting for David Smith CTA).
B. The Treasurers Report as supplied with the agenda indicated a \$ 1982.18 balance. This was approved as submitted. Motion: Kevin Murphy, 2nd: Gray Stevens.

Back to original agenda:

3. Vermont Trail System:

The Mad River Greenways Application for the “West Side Section, Mad River Greenway” Trail was approved as an addition to the VT Trail System.

Motion: Kevin Murphy, 2nd: Gray Stevens.

(A copy of that application was supplied with the 03/22/01meeting agenda)

4. Report of the Nominating Committee: (attached)

The Committee of Amy Bell, Paul Moffat, Kevin Russell and Bonnie Waninger Recommended that the current Slate of Directors and Officers be nominated for Re-election at the Annual Meeting, May, 17. All have agreed to serve another year.

The Council Bylaws allow for additional candidates to be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

5. Other Business:

Trail Easement Appraisals- Lenore Budd asked if anybody had experience in getting an appraisal for a Trail Easement (as opposed to a Conservation Easement).

The feedback was that Conservation Easements have been used in the past by GMC and others. Ed Leary suggested that Lenore (CTA) contact Mike Fraysier at FP&R For information on this.

Trails Tract at the Governors Council on Recreation – *Action*: this is to be an agenda item at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Note: The Annual Meeting will be held at the Green Mountain Club HQ. in Waterbury Center (on Route 100) May 17, 2001 - 9:30 am to 2:00pm. Lunch will be catered (price to be determined).

6. **Roundtable:**

Lenore Budd – CTA has had a fabulous winter (ski conditions) for events. Tour de Stowe had 112 participate for this major fund raising event. Governor Dean skied with CTA members to publicize the Trail Easement he donated. The Rogers Branch Bridge replacement in Albany will be completed in May. RTF Grants will help to acquire a trail easement in Montgomery and to cut a trail in Fayston.

Only one member provided a write up as requested. The following notes are what the Secretary caught from the presentations by the others.

Six Reprisentivies of various Horse and Trail Riding Clubs attended thanks to an announcement at the recent Equine Summit.

+ Brenda Lasell –Dog River Horse Club, President, Williamstown, Vt. Trail Riders like loop trails. Horses know when headed home.

+ Morris Lasell – Vermont Horse Council, President. Statewide organization – 26yrs. Old. Includes all facets of the Equine Industry and sports. 150 members.

+ Lynn Dow – Midstate Riding Club, President. 50-60 members. Have Show grounds and put on 3 Horse Shows /yr. Competition as well as trail riding.

+ Bob C-Philbrick, writes for Equine Journal and Morrisville News & Citizen.

+ Betsy C-Philbrick, Lamoille County Riding Club.

+ Anne Peyton, North Country Hounds Association. Many horse trail riders.

+ Gray Stevens – Trails Web Page WWW.VOGA.org is on line and available for all trail organizations to be listed with hot links to trail activities and descriptions.

+ Kevin Russell - Mad River Path Assn., Executive Director. Trails now for Pedestrian and Biking. They have one trail available to horses now. May have a forum for all users to help with a management plan for the Fayston area trails (need funding).

+ Amy Bell AOT, A Bike & Ped. Trail Design Manual is being prepared- by 2Q 2002.

+ Paul Moffat, Westmore Trails, Helping Susan Bulmer with the Sentinel Rock State Park Management Plan. This is one of VT's newest Parks. It overlooks Willoughby Lk.

+ Kevin Murphy, VAST Great season! Membership up to 40K 2/3^{rds} in-State. Now grooming 4600 miles of trails. Season ends officially March 31.

+ Heidi Krantz, Morrisville Recreation Trails Assoc, Planning multi-use trails brochure. Beaver meadow area is to be conserved with an easement – trail opportunities !

Paul Moffat, Secretary