



Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

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VT Trails & Greenways Council Annual Meeting, May 17, 2001

Green Mountain Club's Hiking Center, Waterbury Center, VT

Present: Bill Moulton, David Blow, Kim Syman, Mike Stafford, Dave Smith, Lenore Budd, Dick MacKay, Betsy C-Philbrick, Bob C-Philbrick, Kate Carter, Bonnie Waninger, Peter Ketchem, Paul Moffat, Kevin Russell, Geof Plunkett, Amy Bell, Jennifer Waite, Rob Center, Anne Peyton, Eric Scharnberg, Virginia Lancaster, Brian Costello, Bruce Amsden, Laurie Adams, Ben Rose, Carolyn Callahan

1. The meeting was called to order by Ben Rose at 9:05am. A quorum was present.
2. Those present introduced themselves and mentioned their organization affiliations.
3. The March 22, 2001 Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted (motion-Amy, 2nd-Mike).
4. The Treasurer's Report by Bonnie for the FY 2001 indicated a balance of \$1,982.18 (Unchanged from the 04/13/01 attachment to the Meeting notice mailed to all). This was approved as presented (motion-Amy, 2nd-Paul). Bonnie also noted that \$ 488. Was spent since the 04/13/01 Report for printing 800 copies of the Spring Newsletter. Several members have not paid Yr. 2000 Dues. 2001-2002 membership renewals are due by June 01 (Renewal blanks on your Newsletter copies).
5. The Nominating Committee (Paul, Amy, Bonnie, Kevin) presented the following slate for 2001-2002:
Officers: Ben Rose- Chair (Green Mountain Club), Amy Bell-Vice Chair (Vtrans Bike/Ped.), Bonnie Waninger-Treasurer (NW Regional Planning Comm.), Paul Moffat-Secretary (Westmore Trails).

Directors: David Smith- Local Trails (Middlebury, VT), Dick MacKay- Regional (Comfort Inn), Eric Scharnberg- Regional (Cross VT Trail), Kevin Murphy**- Statewide (VAST), Kim Syman-Statewide (Grn. Mtn. Horse Assn.), Graydon Stevens-Commercial (VT Outdoor Guides).

It was reported that Kevin Murphy** has resigned from his position at VAST. Those present nominated Bryant Watson as acting until VAST names a successor to Kevin as a Statewide Director. Bryant accepted the nomination (phone - May 18th). Kevin left VAST 5wks. ago and will be replaced.

6A & B. Election:

A motion (Dick) to close the nominations with an instruction for the Secretary to cast one ballot for the Slate as revised (above) was approved by those present.

Mike Stafford suggested that the Council consider a change to the By-laws that would provide for Board continuity by increasing and staggering the terms of the Officers and Directors.

Action: place on agenda for the fall meeting.

Ben Rose reported on the accomplishments of the year. The council needs resources from the VT F,P&R in order to accomplish our mission as established by State Statute. He sent a letter to Scott Johnstone, ANR Secretary and also had a meeting with him. ANR and the Legislature have dropped the funding for the Recreation Department but did not remove the designation from the Department's title.

Business Manager, Peter Strobridge is providing "best efforts support" along with his full time duties. We are pleased that Carolyn Callahan is also providing part time assistance along with her other duties At F.P&R. Need to Lobby the Legislature for more funded support to the Council (Kevin/Amy/Ben).

Action: The Council needs to "raise the level of our game" in order to achieve our mission (Ben).

Members were urged to review the information in their blue Member notebook (handed out at 01/11 & 03/22 Mtg's.) to refresh their knowledge of the purpose of the Council. More of these blue books are available from Carolyn Callahan ccallahan@fpr.anr.state.vt.us if you do not have one.

- 6C. VT Trails & Greenways Planning Manual, dated 1993- needs to be updated. Carolyn has the discs with the original text. Perhaps a contractor can be commissioned to do this task (resources?).
Action: A committee of Amy Bell (convener), Kate Carter, Dave Smith agreed to work on this
And make a recommendation for the Board prior to the fall meeting.

2.

- 6 D. Bruce Amsden discussed the FP&R Web site development (ref. The blue Council Page Map FPR Policy #22 statement handed out at the 01/11 meeting by Laurie). The VT State Parks site will be running next week.

For development of the Council Web page and "hot links" Bruce needs photos and text (.pdf or Adobe Acrobat Format preferred).

If persons are in the photos he needs their written permission to use them. A "Model Release form Was distributed (appended to minutes).

If an organization wishes a domain name, Bruce said that they cost \$105 for 3 yrs.

What do we want to achieve with the Site? Links? Laurie ran with this and sent out a E-mail

January 12 requesting that linking information was to go to Bruce bruce.amsden@State.vt.us

The resulting action was unclear. Thus a new task group was volunteered made up of- Jennifer Waite (convener), Kate Carter, Graydon Stevens and Carolyn Callahan.

Action: Meet with Bruce and follow the actions- "Website Development Brainstorm" listed in the box on the 01/11/01 blue handout.

- 6E. Act 250 jurisdiction for trails-Ben reported that the draft interpreting the required review by Local District Authority has died in the legislature. This was handed out at the January meeting and should be used as a guide. Ask the local board for an opinion if the new trail or relocation of existing trail exceeds-6 miles (motorized) or 13 miles (non-motorized). They may give a "letter opinion". Appeal to the Environmental Board, if a satisfactory opinion is not rendered.

It was suggested that Act 250 jurisdiction be added to the Trails Track for the Governors Conference on Recreation (October 23). In preparation for this Mike Zahner is to be invited to the Fall meeting of the Council to discuss this issue.

Action: Ben to contact Mike Zahner. Eric also suggested that the Council write a set of proposed guidelines after the fall meeting.

- 6F & G. Ed Leary was not present (at the Green River "clear cut" trial). Peter Strobridge (fax) and Bill Multon provided unofficial update re: the F,P&R Stewardship Fund legislation. It has been cut back from \$500K to \$50K by the House and no additional FP&R positions were funded. The purpose of this Legislation is to establish a Trust Fund that can receive donations from "interested outside parties" to improve the Parks and Public lands. The text of the House version was in the fax and is appended to the minutes. Now it is "in the Senate".

Continued action: Contact your Senators with your support.

ATV Legislative action – no report

7. Recreation Trails Grants: Discussion centered on the few funded projects this year and the many (38/50 applications) that were below the "cut line". Members of the Ranking Committee (Dave, Paul & Amy) described the ranking process. Laurie described the FP&R Administration actions to sort the top ranked Project Applications by funding category. The NRTF and VT Trails Funds are allocated 30% to Motorized, 30% Nonmotorized and 40% to Diversified Trail Project applications that make the "cut".
Per the fax from Peter Strobridge \$350,129 was available after the FP&R Admin. and FP&R District Projects used their legal portion. VAST was the only Motorized Application and received the full 30% portion of the grand total. The next 11 top-ranked Applications accounted for the balance available. There were many large \$ project applications this year that were judged to be of Statewide benefit. Thus some of the other local requests were lower ranked.

Lots of discussion followed. Laurie suggested that it was time for another Program Review meeting with the Ranking Committee, the VT Trails & Greenways Board, FP&R and interested

Trail Fund applicants invited. She also suggested that Rob Sicorra (Fed. Highway Adm.) be

3.

Present to answer questions about the NRTF that is passed through the AOT to FP&R to administer.
Action: Peter Strobridge and Ben Rose to set up this meeting.

Geof Plunkett brought up the issue of FP&R enforcement of the provisions and restrictions of Trail Fund Grants previously funded. If the applicant fails to comply what enforcement action does the State take. He provided a copy of a 01/10/2000 letter to the FP&R Commissioner and background information memo for the Council regarding a 1997 Milton Forest Project (97-11). Since Ed Leary and Peter Strobridge were not present this subject was deferred until the proposed Program Review Meeting.

8A. VT Trail System Selection Committee Membership. The Trails & Greenways Council has the responsibility to recommend approval of Trail Applications for inclusion in the VT Trail System. The VT Trails System Statute Ch. 20 section 443 established this requirement. (Copy in the blue notebook). A committee of the Council was established in 1995. Several members are no longer on the Council.

A motion by Jennifer Waite (2nd Dick) was approved to have the Council Board review applications for trails to be included in the VT Trail System instead of the previous committee. This will be accomplished at the quarterly meetings.

8B. 2001 Governors Recreation Conference October 23 –Trails Track:

The following Session topics were suggested.

1. Vt. Mountain Biking- Tom Yennerell, VT Mtn. Bike Advocates
2. Act 250 and Trails jurisdiction , permitting
Mike Zahner to lead this?
Lenore Budd and Mike Stafford will assist.
3. Land owner Liability Issues, Appraisal for easements, negotiations
Lenore Budd, Kevin Russell and Kim Syman to organize this.

Action: Ben Rose to coordinate

8C. Awards:

Laurie Adams was presented a framed Certificate in recognition of her 11 years of support to the Council and valued historical memories to keep us “on track”.

Bryant Watson was recognized for his years on the Council and as past Chair. Ben will deliver the framed certificate when they meet later.

9. Council Meeting dates:

October 4 –Fall Meeting at VAST HQ in Barre, VT

January 17-Winter meeting at Ethan Allen Rm., Statehouse in Montpelier

March 21 – Spring meeting location TBA.

May 16 – Annual Meeting at Green Mtn. Horse Assn. In Woodstock

10. Member Roundtable:

Pete Ketchem-GMC hosted a workshop on Back Country Sanitation (composting, etc.)

Jennifer Waite- NPS projects... Wells River 4.5 mile rail-trail, Lake Champlain Inn-to Inn walkways,Poultney Community Trail System, Mt. Independence 1.75 mile loop trail, Former Champlain Lands Hiking Trails Plan. She passed out a NPS 2000 Rivers & Trails brochure.

Kate Carter- Mountain Bike Advocates have a new Exec. Dir., Tom Yennerelle. The State may recognize Mountain Biking as legitimate recreation on State lands.

Dick MacKay- presented a map (draft) of recreation trails in NH, VT & Quebec. This may be published and distributed by the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail. An NRT Brochure was passed out to those present.

4.

Rob Center- passed out the new Northern Forest Canoe Trail brochure. 740-mile water trail from Old Forge, NY to Ft. Kent, Maine.

Lenore Budd- CTA staff and volunteers will construct a 60ft. bridge over Rogers Branch in

Albany, VT this weekend on the Old Bailey-Hazen road section of their Trail. In August a new section of Phen Basin X/C trail will be cut and marked by UVM volunteers. Also a new section of trail in GMNF between Rt. 30 and Rt. 11 in Peru will be cleared by a Volunteers for Peace field crew.

Dave Smith- CTA is now located in the refurbished Burlington Train Station with a new staff.

Mike Stafford- for National Trails Day, June 2nd Morrisville has a big volunteer trail cleanup

Anne Peyton- North Country Hounds is moving kennel from Canan, NH to Hartland, VT to focus on Hunts in the Woodstock, VT and Lyme, NH areas. NCH has 50 members. They have landowner permission to clear and maintain trails in the area this summer.

Amy Bell- expects an announcement on the plan for the 96-mile Lamoille Valley Rail corridor very soon. John Kaplan is the new coordinator for bike safety and security at Vtrans.

Kim Syman- Vt. Horse Assn. Hosted a meeting of three-horse community groups. Coordination and communication has improved as a result.

Geof Plunkett- discussed concerns about the Milton Forest VTRF Grant problem (above).

Eric Sharnberg- National Trails day trail projects in the Wells River area on Cross VT Trail.

The VYCC will have two crews (2wks each) at Wells River and in Richmond VT working on the CVT this summer. Eric described the "Bike The Bed" day for kids to access the Twinfield Regional School on the old rail bed from Marshfield and from Plainfield. A demonstration program as an alternative to bussing.

Kevin Russell- Summer work on the Kingsfield Bridge section of the Mad River Greenway.

Virginia Lancaster & David Blow- VT Horse Council, a Statewide organization is "reinventing themselves". Other projects...Highway Safety for horses and Champion Lands horse trails.

Laurie Adams- came to see if there were questions she could answer for the Council.

Brian Costello- The Burlington Bikeways has changed name to "Local Motion". They are revitalizing the rail-trail on the old Rutland Rail Lake Champlain causeway. A 2nd bike ferry is planned for the Colchester- South Hero cut similar to the Winooski River Ferry. Have a VTRF Grant for work on the So. Hero rail bed and a relocation section. Newsletter & Map.

Paul Moffat- Westmore Assn. Obtained a \$10K Grant from the Leggett Foundation to help the State to develop a Long-range Plan for Sentinel Rock Park in Westmore. The VT Leadership Center will do some of the eco-base information gathering and trail planning with help from the Association and the Town. This will be the newest State Park. 400 acres plus three buildings (with a spectacular view) were donated to VT by Mr. & Mrs. Winston Wright.

Ben Rose- GMC owns a option to purchase 50 acres to the west of the current Hiking Center.

A loop trail is planned for this property along with new building to house the field staff. Reconstruction this summer of two Long Trail Shelters that collapsed under snow load.

Meeting adjourned @ 1:55 pm. Motion by Amy Bell with 2nd by all !!

Respectfully submitted.

Paul Moffat, Secretary