



Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

C/O VT Dept Forests, Parks & Recreation
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VERMONT TRAILS & GREENWAYS COUNCIL

Meeting March 21, 2002

General Wait House, Waitsfield, VT

Chairman Ben called the Meeting to order at 9:00am and declared that a quorum was present.
Reference Quarterly Meeting Agenda & 03/11/02 Treasurers Report mailed to all members.

Present-Mike Stafford, Eric Scharnberg, Ed Leary, David Smith, Sherry Smecker, Lenore Budd, Beth Ann Finlay, Kevin Russell, Amy Bell, Gray Stevens, Amy Cantor (Williston Town), Carolyn Moulton, Cherie Martin, Chuck Martin, Rob Center, Kim Syman, Ben Rose, Paul Moffat, Jennifer Waite

1. Introductory Business:

- The minutes of the January 17 meeting were approved with a correction to p. 3- LWCF Grants... "A bonus of 5 points will be given to those applications from towns *attending the grant workshops*."
- The Treasurers Report FY 02 Third Period 01/01/02 – 03/31/02 (back of agenda) was approved – balance as of 03/11/02 was \$1,520.73, Bonnie Waninger, Treasurer.
- Scott Johnstone, VT ANR Secretary could not attend due to request to appear before the Legislature.

2. Updates:

- Newsletter- Jennifer Waite restated the March 27 Spring Newsletter deadline for articles and JPEG (pictures) to be submitted to her.
Ben Rose will write an article- trails in the new Millennium. Other features- information needed for new trails, workshop meetings, happenings by member organizations, etc. Sherry will forward the VRTF & NRTF Grant announcements for 2002/2003 and reference to the VT&GC Grant Review process. Gray Stevens will write about the Web site which will be up and running by mid-April (Carolyn reported for Bruce Amsden).
Carolyn said that there are lots of the Winter Newsletters available (150 left out of 800 printed). Contact her or pick up some from the FP&R Office. The mailing list was then discussed. She will distribute the current list to those members with an e-mail address requesting additions/corrections.
It was suggested the list include all of the VT Legislators and Governors Office (as well as ANR) if it already does not have the current incumbents on it.
- VT Trails & Greenways Planning Manual- Amy Bell reported that she will complete the VRTF Grant Request paperwork. She will submit it to Sherry so that the \$6,000 will be available for the contract person RFP and committee action. Lenore Budd volunteered to be added to the Manual review committee with David and Amy. {note: the manual was last published in 1993}. Carolyn has a few of the VT Trails & Greenways Plan books available for pick up at FP&R but no surplus Planning Manuals. Does have many of the Policy and Action Documents for those who want a copy, date 1993.
- Business Planning Subcommittee -Mike Stafford passed out a draft VT&GC Business Plan Outline (dtd. 08 January 2002) which is attached. He then went on to briefly illuminate each item in the outline. This served as the basis for discussion of how we will approach this task at the annual meeting in May. Item E,

Competition was explained as regional & local trails organizations that are also working to address all of VT&GC's goals. Analyzing the Council's role as related to these competitors and to our FP&R support/host may provide useful insight into our future administration and operation per written comments from committee members Bonnie Waninger and Chapin Spencer. Beth Ann Finlay suggested that we contract with an Organizational/Business Facilitator to lead the group discussion at the Annual Meeting. This sounded like a good suggestion (cost \$500-800). Ed Leary offered a FP&R Staff Facilitator at no cost to the Council. This offer was accepted and Ed will contact that person for facilitation of our Business Plan Process.

Ed will provide Mike with the facilitators name and phone/e-mail. Mike and the Committee will outline what the planning process will want from the Annual Meeting participants. The Facilitator will require a list of VT&GC members that are willing to do some pre-work to help with the process. Persons willing to do this are to contact Mike Stafford (he also will send out e-mail solicitation for "pre-workers").

- Trails Grant Program- Sherry Smecker announced that the Grant Review Committee had ranked 35 applications for VRTF & NRTF 2002-2003 funding. The 25 applicants that were ranked above the available funds cut line will be notified next week (rejection letters/phone calls prior to press releases) A listing of the highest ranked projects was given to the members present (for Council use only until after the press release). This years Grants will total \$446,472 (VRTF= \$73,346 and NRTF= \$373,126). In addition \$3,000 will be awarded to 7 of 15 Mini-Grant applicants(<\$500 each). These have all been approved by the FP&R Commissioner. David Smith stated that the Grant review Committee was very pleased with the quality of the applications and that so many smaller projects will be funded this year.
3. Nominating Committee Appointment:
Ben Rose appointed Paul Moffat as the convener of this years nominating committee. Lenore Budd, Kim Syman, Cherie Martin and Kevin Russell agreed to serve on the committee. Paul will use e-mail as the medium for committee work again this year. All of the current BOD members and Officers will be contacted by the committee to see if they wish to continue in their current positions. Suggestions for filling the vacancies will then be solicited.
4. Other Business:
- GMC is having problems renewing their Liability Insurance. Costs are up significantly since September 11. Gray Stevens offered a list of companies that GMC could contact. A discussion of liability insurance followed.
 - Lamoille Valley Rail Trail- Amy reported that the Rail Bank Legislation was held up in Montpelier. She also said that it looks good for the Morrisville to St. Johnsbury section to be designated for trail use as long as the remaining rails and ties are not torn up.
 - Many thanks to Kevin Russell (for coffee & donuts) and the Mad River Path Assn. For hosting this meeting.
5. Round Table: (written input from CTA was appreciated by your secretary. Accuracy of other reports?)
- Mike- Revised Morristown Trail map will be published in April
 - Gray- Guide Association membership growing. Average 4K hits on VOGA Web site each week.
 - Amy- 2nd Annual Bike/Ped. Summit will be held at VT Tech. In Randolph April 20, 9 to 3:30pm. Reauthorization of the Enhanced Intermodal Transportation Grants will be major topic. 2002 Bike & Ped. Grant applications are due April 8. The Mississquoi Rail Trail 3rd span Truss Bridge replacement bids is due next week. AOT expects completion for trail use by the end of October.
 - Rob- Northern Forest Canoe Trail: NW Regional Planning Commission has held 2 mtgs. With 20 attending each to discuss the VT waterway route in the West. The VT Leadership Center in Charleston hosted two meetings for the planning of the Eastern route.
 - Kevin- The Kingsbury Bridge section of the Mad River Path looks like it will be constructed this year. VYCC has been contacted for the work. The 4th annual Fitness Walk will be April 7.
 - Amy- the interim route of the Cross VT Bike path thru Williston has been established.

- Beth Ann- The Timber Pedestrian Bridge over the Railroad in Island Pond will be replaced this summer. It will connect directly to the Bluff Mtn. Trail. New Stowe walking tour maps will depict historic architectural features as well as old growth trees (from Indian times).
- Lenore- CTA had a disappointing snow season but still hosted many tours & events. CTA will be opening two new stretches of trail this summer in the Green mountain National forest: 7 miles in Windhall & Peru between Rte 30 and Rte 11. Also 3.8 miles in Warren between Lincoln Gap & Sugarbush Golf Course.
- Sherry- In addition to the trails Grant Program (above) FP&R received 23 applications for LWCF monies March 1st.
- Jennifer- “my e-mail is back”. Lake Champlain walkways -walk weekend is May 4 & 5- NPS is working with GMC NE Chapter, VT Leadership Center on Champion Lands Trail Projects.
- Cheri- VT Horse Council will provide mailing list to Sherry so members can receive VT&GC Newsletters, etc., Mad River Riding & Driving Club have a new map.
- David- CTA membership is up despite poor snow conditions for X-C. Gov. Dean’s family easement in Lowell for the CTA Trail was high point of Fall.
- Ed- FP&R is forming a steering committee for new outdoor recreation comprehensive plan to be completed by end of 2002. The scope of work will be less complex than the last SCORP.
- Eric- Cross VT Trail will have an interim route in Williston and Richmond by fall. The trail brochure showing available sections for biking/walking will be published by may 15. His AOT position has been extended to December 30. RFP for the I-91 underpass work will be out in April.
- Kim- Will e-mail directions to VT Horse Assn. For May VT&GC Meeting. Digital Mapping workshops successful – more work planned. Trails projects planned for national Trails Day in June.
- Ben- Relocation of the Long Trail access via the Elephants Head Trail in Smugglers Notch this summer with white blazes to show the way (vs. current blue blaze). Long Trail Jonesville Bridge is out. GMC planning on call volunteer shuttle (cell phone needed) to take thru-hikers the 10 miles to opposite side trailhead.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am. **Annual Meeting is May 16** at The Green Mountain Horse Association in So. Woodstock, VT. Directions will be sent with the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Moffat
Secretary