

## VT TRAILS & GREENWAYS COUNCIL January 8, 2004 MEETING

Ethan Allen Room, VT Statehouse, Montpelier, VT

**Present:** Larry Michaels, Ben Rose, Ed Leary, Gray Stevens, Mike Stafford, Luke O'Brien, Paul Moffat, Beth Ann Finlay, Kevin Russell, Matt Tetreault, Alexis Nowalk, Becca Brown, Eric Sharnberg, Amy Bell, Bryant Watson, Dick Mcakay, Becca Roof

1. Chairman Mike called the meeting to order @ 10:07am and declared that a quorum was present. Reference the September 9, 2003 meeting agenda items (by number) previously mailed to the Council.
2. Those present introduced themselves and the Organization they represented.
3. The *Minutes of the September 9th Meeting* were approved – corrections: Planning Grants @ \$7400, Luke O'Brien (B).
4. The *Treasurers report Sept. 6 through Jan. 6, 2004* approved with balance \$ 1135.01. Noted that the ANR Commissioner did approve the payment of Newsletter Landowner Liability insert @ \$360. Also **Note: Only 22 members have paid the 2003 dues !! PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO BEN ROSE.** We do have enough \$ to publish the next Newsletter. The Membership Comm. Sent reminder Ltr.
5. *Government Relations Committee* has met twice. They reviewed the VAST position paper on lifting the \$370K VT Off Road Gas Tax cap. Ben Rose moved that the VT Trails & Greenways Council support the VAST Snowmobile Summer Study recommendations with respect to the Gas Tax for Recreation; or, at a minimum, lifting the current cap of \$370K on the ¾ of 1% recreation gas tax in 10 V.S.A. section 446, such that the allocations to the Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation and to competitive Grants for Trails & Greenways Projects to municipalities and non-profits would increase from the current levels. The above motion (Rose/ Bell) was tabled by a (O'Brien/ Michaels) motion until Bryant Watson could report later on the legislation proposed by VAST. A copy of the VAST Summer Paper proposing the lifting of the \$370K off road gasoline tax cap on FP&R and VT Recreation Trails Fund had been handed out at the September meeting. *Later...* Bryant Watson handed out the VAST proposed legislation “Amendments to Chapter 007 & Chapter 029 of Title 23 and Chapter 020 of Title 10-“ Subject:.....; Recreation Law Enforcement: Proposed Strike-all Amendment for House Bill H. 0397 and Senate Bill S. 0055”...on p. 9 of the handout see “Sec. 12. Chapter 20, Title 10 ~ 446 is amended to read: ~ 446 Vermont Recreation Trails Fund”...which proposes that the \$.15/gallon tax would generate \$1,187,219... this to be split 50% for Recreation Appropriation; (\$593,609) and 50% for Recreation Law Enforcement and Safety Education (\$593,609). After discussion the Council approved a motion (Russell/ Nowalk) to remove the original motion from the table and *then passed the Rose/ Bell motion (above) by a separate vote.* Bryant reported that he had met with Secretaries, Dorne -and MacDonald-, Commissioner Wood- FP&R and others in the House & Senate...the message from the Governor was that if the Secretaries of AOT and ANR support this transfer of about \$900K from AOT's budget to ANR that Gov. Douglas would support this in the Budget recommendation to the Legislature. **Action:** the Gov't. Relations Comm. Will meet Jan. 28 9:15am at the Statehouse Cafeteria. They will communicate with Administration officials and Legislators as appropriate in support of this proposal. T&GY Council Members are urged to contact their Legislators to approve this proposed change in VT Laws. See 11/4/03 backup notes handout.
6. *Membership Committee:* had a Dec. 2003 meeting...Kevin reported that a membership renewal letter was sent to 30 former members that had not paid 2003 dues...there were 14 that sent dues! Using FP&R mailing list from Becca Brown and lists from the VT League of Cities & Towns, the Committee proposes to send a second mailing including a T&GY Council Application and a dues envelope. The budget for this proposal is > \$600. **Action:** Motion (Rose/ Moffat) to authorize the Membership Committee to do this mailing in January 2004. Kevin went on to say that they are looking to refine the mailing list (eliminate duplication...Amy Bell- this would a great benefit for Newsletter mailing also). Also to refine the T&GY Brochure with the addition of photos. Dick Mackay...The T&GY definitions for types of memberships is confusing ..this should be clarified... increase dues??
7. *Public Affairs Committee:* A) The Web site exists- Ed Leary/ Becca Brown. [WWW.VTTGC.ORG](http://WWW.VTTGC.ORG) **Action:** Need graphics/photos in *JPEG* from member organizations- to Becca Brown FP&R/ANR. Gray Stevens reported that the VOGA.org has a list of State trails and links to some of the VT&GY organizations as well as a link to the VTTGC site. B) Newsletter is funded until the fall issue (Ben). C) 2004 Governors Conference Trails Track- **Action:** Ben Rose, Larry Michaels & Mike Stafford will organize 3 panels. Need a T&GY representative to pull it together for Betsy Orselet, VARPA.

8. *Operations Committee*: ... Mike. A) The Operations Committee recommendation that a representative of the submitting organization present the VT Trail System application to the Council has been noted by Becca Brown. **Action:**All Council participants were requested in September to send e-mail suggestions to improve the VT Trail System designation criteria to FP&R. None received! Becca will resend the e-mail request to the Council and then consolidate in a recommendation to the FP&R/ANR Commissioners. **Respond Please this month.** B) Trail Grants...Becca reported that U.S.Congress failure to pass the AOT budget meant that a \$ 315K 6month extension of the 2003 FTRF Grant funds was authorized to be used by February, 29<sup>th</sup>! FP&R decided to use the funds for the “in-house” projects since they had been ranked in December. There are no State motorized trail projects to satisfy the Federal requirement that 30% go to motorized Projects. The Project applications that are received by the January 30 deadline will be quickly sorted. The motorized projects will be reviewed by the Ranking Committee at a February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and a recommendation for the award of \$ 94.5K made then. A second Ranking Committee meeting will be held March 9<sup>th</sup> to rank the rest of the applications (including projects submitted for the remainder of the motorized funds). It is assumed that Congress will pass an AOT budget and VT will be allocated the rest of the Federal portion. The VRTF will be applied as in previous years based on the recommended project rank list. C) Amy Bell said that a press release indicating the status of Bike/Ped Grants for this year is coming very soon-watch for it!
9. *SCORP*: Lynda Henzel reported that only 3 member Organizations had made submittals covering their accomplishments and future Goals for the new SCORP. **ACTION REQUIRED by those that are delinquent !** The March 11th T&GY meeting beginning at 9:00am will be a “FOCUS GROUP” on the new SCORP. Representatives from motorized, non-motorized, horse, birding and water trails must be there in order for their input to be included in the new plan. The meeting will be held in Waterbury at the ANR/FP&R facilities. *Lunch will be available at cost.*
10. *Other business*: Revision of the 1993 Trails & Greenways Plan. Amy Bell reported that funding was set aside for this and an RFP for bids on this project was needed (she does not have time). **ACTION:** Mike agreed that the Operations Committee would do this by March. Several contractors are interested!
11. *Future Meetings*: March 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 2:00pm @ Waterbury ANR/FP&R ..lunch at cost-location TBA  
May 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Seyon Ranch...Becca to follow up and book the date.  
September 9<sup>th</sup>.. in the NE Kingdom...Luke O’Brien, VT Leadership Center and  
The Westmore Association, Paul Moffat will host –location TBA
12. *Roundtable*: NRCDC, Beth Ann: The Island Pond Pedestrian Bridge is complete. Go see & use it.  
Upper Connecticut Valley Bikeways, Dick Mackay: Passed around a new book Adventures in Paradise  
FP&R, Becca Brown: Cross Rivendale Trail Application to VT Trails System received-- 3/11/04 Mtg.  
ANR/FP&R, Lynda Henzel- SCORP is your plan please send your input within 2 weeks or your organization will not be included in the 2005 Plan!  
VAST, Alexis Nowalk: Tough start to 2004—Water/ ice on snowmobile trails. 13,577 acres of land bought by private owner LIADSA in NEK. All but 6 of 21 VAST trail miles are now closed !  
VT Leadership Center, Luke O’Brien, Monadnock Mtn. acquired by State-VLC/GMC working on a new trails plan.  
VOGA, Gray Stevens: A Search & Rescue Team is being organized by VT Recreation Ambassadors.  
VT Bike Coalition, Becca Roof: following up all the AOT Enhancement Project progress. Moving VTBC Office to Montpelier soon.  
Cross VT Trail, Eric Sharnberg: Acquired the 1<sup>st</sup> Easement/purchase in Plainfield. 2<sup>nd</sup> Easement in Marshfield in process. Membership drive going on, Need funds by February to continue as Ex. VP.  
Green Mountain Club, Ben Rose: 2003 was a great year! Record number of hikers on Mt. Mansfield and Camels Hump. 2 new shelters built on Long Trail. GMC Barn replacement deferred – Funds low.  
Morristown Trails, Mike Stafford a Meeting for area trails January 19 @ TEGU Building.  
Hardwick / Carftsbury Trails, Larry Michaels: Hardwick Trails Phase I is complete and Phase II excavation as well as the Craftsbury Trail excavation is also complete.

Meeting adjourned at 12:37pm

Paul Moffat, Secretary

