

**VT TRAILS & GREENWAYS COUNCIL March 11, 2004 MEETING**  
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Waterbury, VT

**Present:** Larry Michaels, Ben Rose, Ed Leary, Gray Stevens, Luke O'Brien, Paul Moffat, Beth Ann Finlay, Kevin Russell, Matt Tetreault, Alexis Nowalk, Becca Brown, Amy Bell, Jennifer Waite, Ted Milks, Brian Cotterill, Bonnie Waninger, Sherry Smecker, Tim Tierney, Virginia Lancaster, Linda Henzel, Barry Lawson ( ANR Facilitator) and 21 other participants in the SCORP Focus session.

1. Chairman Mike was away so Treasurer Ben called the meeting to order @ 9:07am and declared that a quorum was present.

Reference the meeting agenda items (by number) previously e-mailed to the Council.

2. Those present introduced themselves and the Organization they represented.
3. The *Minutes of the January 8th Meeting* were approved (Finlay/Milks) – corrections: #3. 09/09/03 minutes should read Planning Grants @ \$7400; January 8<sup>th</sup> minutes #4. FP&R not ANR
4. The *Treasurers report Jan. 7, thru. Mar.9, 2004* received - balance \$ 1,355.01. **Note: Only 26 members have paid the 2003 dues !! PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO REBECCA BROWN OR BEN ROSE.** We do have enough \$ to publish the next Newsletter. Ben tabled the rest of the Council Business until after the SCORP Focus session. He then introduced Linda Henzel who introduced Facilitator Barry Lawson.
5. SCORP Focus session- Barry described the process to the 41 participants. We were divided into four Groups. Each to work on revising one of the 4 Goals, Strategies and Actions for the 2005 Trails & Greenways Plan of the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2005 as outlined in the handout dtd. March 10, 2004. Each person was given the Draft “Ideas for Goals, Strategies and Actions for Trails & Greenways” an 8 page working document. The groups worked for 2 hours to revise and add to the draft and then re-convened with presentations of the main suggestions for revising Goal A,B,C &D. Barry recorded these on newsprint for all to view. He will work with Linda to revise the Draft Plan The written comments and notes by each group were collected to aid in this process. *The resultant Plan Draft will then be sent to the participants (and Council) for review.* Thanks Linda, Barry and Ed Leary for a well -organized session [and also a great bag lunch]. T&GY Council re-convened @ 12:20
6. *Public Affairs Committee: Larry Michaels* has sent out an e-mail request 03/10/04 to the Council for volunteers and panel members for the Trails Track at the Governors Conference on Recreation October 7, 2004. The Conference theme is “Community Health & Fitness”. **Action: Please respond @ [Larry@getoutofthecar.com](mailto:Larry@getoutofthecar.com)** or (802) 229-1888. Web site is progressing FP&R doing the links – more at the annual meeting May 13. **Newsletter-** Jennifer Waite & Larry reported that the spring issue *due out in May requires input by deadline March 26<sup>th</sup>. There is only enough money for the May newsletter.* In kind: layout donation- the National Park Service (Jennifer); mailing FP&R and the Council only has to fund the printing !
7. *Membership Committee: Action: Using FP&R mailing list (Becca Brown) and lists from the VT League of Cities & Towns, the Committee will send a mailing that includes a T&GY Council Application, brochure and a dues envelope.* The \$ 600. budget for this was approved at the January T&GY meeting. There was discussion of Kevin’s proposal to combine mailings with the VT Bike/Ped. Coalition and offer a combination dues package for both organizations. *The Council made the recommendation that separate letters & applications be sent.* The Council is an “umbrella group” and it would not be fair to other Council members to combine the membership requests. It was also suggested that the Council mailing list all Council members (Individual & groups) and encourage participation.. Thus we would be encouraging membership in not only the Council but the member organizations.
8. *Operations Committee: A) RFP for revision of the 1993 VT Trails & Greenways Plan Manual. Action: Luke, Beth Ann and Amy have promised this RFP to go out before the May Annual Meeting.* B) 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. She has also received e-mail suggestions to improve the application process. **Action: A sub-committee was appointed (Jennifer Waite, Luke O'Brien & Paul Moffat) to review this and make a recommendation to the Council at the May meeting.**

C) VRTF & NRTF Grants only 50% of the Federal Funds have been released and the moneys had to be committed by February 29th- Sherry reported that the FP&R “in house” projects were released since they had been ranked in December. The Federal requirement that 30% go to motorized Projects- the Ranking Committee met and agreed to recommend to use the remaining \$95.5 K as follows: \$75.9K to VAST in partly funding their \$ 165 K 2004 Trail Grooming Grant Application and \$19 K to another motorized State Project. A second Ranking Committee meeting was held March 9<sup>th</sup> ranking the 45 applications received by January 30. Congress passed a Continuing Resolution releasing 2 more months of the Federal portion. We expect the total remaining VRTF funds to be released by June.

**Action:** *FP&R will complete the process of approval and notify the Grantees as Federal funds are available.* The VRTF will be applied as in previous years based on the recommended project rank list.

D) Removing the Gas Tax cap Legislation- Ben reported that he and others have written and met with Legislators. Since the VAST recommendation was turned down ( as Alexis reported) we just want to have the “Cap” removed and fund Recreation with all of the 3/4 Of 1% of the money collected from this tax. **Action:** *on this by the Council was deferred until the May meeting.* Other legislation- Kevin suggested that *the Government Relations Committee review a proposal to exempt Trails below 2500 ft elevation as well as VT Trails System Trails from Act 250 review* of relocation and maintenance projects. E) Ranking Committee Appointments- Sherry announced that three members of the Trails Grant Ranking Committee will have finished their terms in May- *Recommendations for the Motorized, Pedestrian and at large representatives- 2 yr. terms- are to be nominated for action by the Council at the Annual Meeting in May.* **Action:** *contact Mike Stafford with your recommendations (Becca has the criteria).*

9. *Other business: Future Meetings: May 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Seyon Ranch  
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*
10. *Roundtable: In the interest of time the secretary requested that these reports be sent to him by e-mail*

Meeting adjourned at 2:37pm

Paul Moffat, Secretary