

**Vermont Trails & Greenways Council**  
**05/19/05 Meeting Minutes**  
**Seyon Ranch, Groton, Vermont**

**Attendees:**

Lucy Gibson, Smart Mobility, lgibson@smartmobility.com  
Kevin Russell, Stark Mnt Productions, kevinrussell@gmavt.net  
Todd Sheinfeld, VASA, todd1063@aol.com  
Steve Mcleod, VASA, sbmvt@aol.com  
Gray Stevens, VOGA, info@voga.org  
Beth Ann Finlay, N. Vermont Resource & Dev. Council, beth\_ann.finlay@vt.usda.gov  
Jen Lamphere, N. Forest Canoe Trail, jen@northernforestcanoetrail.org  
Paul Moffat, Westmore Trails, paulmoffat@aol.com  
Luke O'Brien, Northwoods Kingdom Corps, luke@northwoodscenter.org  
Jennifer Waite, NPS River & Trails Program, Jennifer\_waite@nps.gov  
Rebecca Brown, FPR, Rebecca.brown@state.vt.us  
David Hooke, Rivendell Trails Assoc., dhooke@aol.com  
Matt Tetreault, VAST, mtetreault@vtvast.org  
Steve Ovenden, WRC, steveno@sover.net  
Ted Milks, Catamount Trail, lbudd@catamounttrail.org, tedmilks@catamounttrails.org  
Mike Stafford, Morristown Trails, msstafford@vtusa.net  
Bryant Watson, VAST, bmwatson@vtvast.org  
Lori Fisher, Lake Champlain Committee, lorif@lakechamplaincommittee.org  
Ben Rose, Green Mountain Club, brose@greenmountainclub.org  
Amy Bell, VT AOT, amy.bell@state.us.vt  
Becca Roof, VT Bike & Ped, Becca@vtbikeped.org  
Ed O'Leary, FPR, ed.oleary@state.vt.us  
Tiffany Shaw, FPR, tiffany.shaw@state.vt.us

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The meeting began at 8:15 with introductions.

**1. Approval of March 24, 2005 Minutes:** Minutes were approved with two corrections: Luke O'Brien requested the correction of "Kingdom Corp" to "Kingdom Corps. Becca Brown noted a correction in the URL for VTGC. It should be www.vtgc.org.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Ben Rose reported new membership checks brought the balance to near \$1000 (see 05/26/05 email for a written Treasurer's report or contact Ben Rose/Tiffany Shaw). On a motion by Kevin Russell, seconded by Mike Stafford, the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

**3. Officer & Board Elections:**

Paul Moffat facilitated voting of officers as listed in the 3/25/05 Minutes, with the single change of Gray Stevens as the Commercial Board Director rather than John Broadhead. On a motion from Ted Milks, seconded by Luke O'Brien, the following Officers and Board members were elected:

Officers:

Kevin Russell, Chair

Beth Ann Finlay, Vice-Chair

Ben Rose, Treasurer

Mike Stafford, Secretary

Tiffany Shaw, Recording Secretary

Directors:

Luke O'Brien, Local Trails	Amy Bell, Regional Trails
Tim Tierney, Regional Trails	Lenore Budd, Statewide Trails
Alexis Nowalk, Statewide Trails	Gray Stevens, Commercial

**4. Remarks by Mike Stafford and Kevin Russell**

**a. Mike:** Mike expressed gratitude to outgoing Officers, Board members and Committee members. Special thanks to Amy Bell and FPR, especially Becca Brown. Thanks to dedicated members, VTGC is working more closely with ANR, Department of Tourism, AOT, and the legislature to determine the economic value of trails and the VTGC. Mike provided an overview of current challenges, including: VT Trails System, sustainable funding, data collection and analysis (with a focus on local users).

**b. Kevin:** Kevin thanked Mike for his goal setting and progress as Chair and he expressed his commitment to continue with goals, with a particular emphasis on a legislative presence. Kevin also presented a plaque of appreciation and FPR sweatshirt to Paul Moffat for his many years of engagement and leadership in VTGC.

**5. Committee Structure & Members:** Beth Ann reported success with the structure and functions of the Operations Committee. Ben Rose initiated a discussion on the appropriate role of the Chair of the Government Relations Committee (GRC). Ben, and others, expressed concern that the individual was able/expected to speak for the whole group with the current structure. After a discussion, the majority consensus was the most appropriate person to speak for the whole group publicly is the Chair of the VTGC. Kevin agreed to be moderate, neutral and consensus building. Jennifer Waite explained the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) has been informal in structure and has not had a Chair, but noted she is willing to be the Chair. Committee Members are as follows:

Operations Committee: Beth Ann Finlay, Chair

- a. VTGC Manual- Beth Ann Finlay, Lucy Gibson
- b. VT Trails System- Luke O'Brien, Sherry Smecker, Becca Brown, Amy Bell, Beth Ann Finlay, David Hooke, Jen Lamphere
- c. Grant Program- Tiffany Shaw
- d. Trail Design Standards/Guide- vacant

Government Relations Committee: Kevin Russell, Chair

- a. Ancient Roads- Kevin Russell, Bryant Watson
- b. Act 250- Bryant Watson
- c. Other- Additional members- Todd, Bryant, Ben, Becca, Kate, Lenore

Public Affairs Committee: Jennifer Waite, Chair

- a. Website- Tiffany Shaw
- b. Newsletter- Jennifer Waite
- c. Governor's Conference on Parks & Rec- Paul Moffat

**6. Operations Committee Report:**

**a. VTGC Manual:** Lucy Gibson, the contractor from Smart Mobility, provided an overview of the Manual. Lucy requested Council members' input on overall language/tone; table on pg 29 (emailed); resources; member contact information; and graphics.

**b. VT Trails System:** Committee needs to meet.

**c. Grant Program:** Tiffany Shaw announced awards had been approved for 17 municipalities and nonprofits through the Vermont Recreation Trails Grant Program. The 17 awards total \$360,619. Additionally, \$3000 in mini-grants was awarded through 7 mini-grants.

**d. Trail Design Standards:** Todd Sheinfeld explained he lacks the time to focus on this and hopes others are able to pick it up.

## **7. Government Relations Committee Report:**

**a. Ancient Roads:** Kevin Russell provided an overview of the Ancient Roads legislation (H.334) that proposes to remove access to public ROW. Public hearings are ongoing. Ben recapped talking points: -it is a local control issue (towns need to identify/protect ROWs), -there are potentially significant unintended consequences, -summer study needs to be conducted. Ed O'Leary confirmed ANR's opposition to the legislation.

**b. Act 250:** Bryant Watson explained the VAST position and perspective on Act 250 permitting. VTGC took no position.

**c. Other:** Gray Stevens shared two commercial concerns: 1. Use of F&W access areas by commercial entities is illegal; 2. H.315 regarding negligence waivers. Contact Gray for further information on either of these issues.

## **8. Public Affairs Committee Report:**

**a. Website:** Tiffany will be revising and updating the VTGC website. She requested suggestions be emailed to her. Gray noted all member websites should have a link to the VTGC site.

**b. Newsletter:** Kevin reported the goal is 2 issues per year. One is nearing release (draft passed around). Please send suggestions to Jennifer Waite. Kevin noted adjustments in the dues structure. Beth moved to adopt the changes, Ben moved to table the issue and revert to the established structure for the near-press newsletter.

**c. Governor's Conference on Parks & Recreation:** Paul announced the conference will be held on October 6 in the Capital Plaza.

**9. Membership Report:** Kevin shared ideas for a renewal notice for current members and greater collaboration with RPCs. Luke noted a lack of "greenways" members and recommended more outreach in that area.

**10. New Business:** No additional new business was discussed.

## **11. Calendar of Upcoming Meetings:**

September 22, Burlington, Location TBA, 9am start time for one-hour committee sessions

January 12, Montpelier, Ethan Allen Room, State House

On a motion by Ben Rose, seconded by Luke O'Brien, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tiffany Shaw