

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Community Committee

Minutes

8/15/2023

Committee Members Present: Mike Green, Laird McDowell (*video*), Doug Molde, Pat Ripley (*video*)

Guests: Alison Link (*video*), Bill Mason, Dustin Turner (*video*), Jonathan Weber (*video*)

Staff: Victoria Hellwig, Georgeana Little

The meeting was called to order by Victoria Hellwig at 10:31 am.

Introductions, Comments, Announcements, Review Committee Leadership

- Everyone introduced themselves for the benefit of new attendees.
- Victoria Hellwig reported that a press release announcing the opening of parts of the LVRT had been sent out by VTrans. The sections from St Johnsbury to Walton and Cambridge Junction to Swanton have been repaired and are now open. The remaining sections will remain closed at least into the Fall.
- Victoria called for nominations for Chair of the committee. It was decided to table this item until more members were present.

Local Motion Funding Opportunity

Jonathan Weber gave a short presentation on the new grants available from Local Motion. The money available totals \$30,000 and is the amount of the Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail endowment they received when they absorbed that organization. The focus will be on physical infrastructure. They are looking for guidance on such things as maximum amount of grants. They expect to open the grant process in late Fall/early Winter.

Trail Friendly Business Program

Pat Riley reported that this idea is being discussed in other areas. It is in the formative stages and new ideas are welcome. There will be no state funds for this project so some method of funding will need to be arranged. A short discussion provided Pat and Victory with ideas that they will pursue together and report back to the Committee.

Trail Ambassador Program

The draft criteria for this program are under review by other regions.

VTrans Updates, Next Steps

Nothing was reviewed under this item.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.