

LVRT Community Council Meeting Minutes

5/21/24

Present: Hilary Warner, Bill Mason, Jackie Cassino, Pat Ripley, Kyle Nuse, Anna Greene, Keith Gross, Tori Hellwig, Alberto Della Torre

Announcements:

- Walk-Bike Summit in St. Johnsbury on June 20th
- LVRT green up day was a success. Wolcott had a large turnout, lots of green bags filled. Cambridge Rotary Club and Volunteers made WCAX.

Local Updates:

- Johnson Rail Trail Committee
 - o Trailhead center maintenance in the works
 - o Maps will be updated with new information and higher quality.
 - o Working with Upward Bound to create international sign.
 - Mural on the inside of the trailhead shelter
 - o Developing secure overnight parking plan
- Other Local Updates:
 - o Area in Highgate will be used for overnight parking, possible business opportunity in Lamoille County?
 - o Could be a stronger connection on other roads between LVRT & Elmore?

Vtrans Updates:

- Rail Trail website is updated
- Construction work is ahead of schedule.
- Damage from December 2023 has all been repaired.
- 2 sites with active construction
 - o East Hardwick site will be done this week.
 - o Section 25.26 will be closed for most of the season.
- Mowing season has started. MVRT is currently being mowed. Update on locations at the end of the week. All trails are in need.
- Contractor has been selected on signage for LVRT(14) project.
 - o New signage across the LVRT, including mile markers. No update on the schedule yet.
- 3rd round of the LVRT Community grant will be released later this year (late summer, early fall).
 - o 100% state funded this year, will require 20% local match. Criteria is the same as previous iterations.
- Council raises safety concerns at the Hyde Park trail crossing on Depot Street, suggestion of adding flashing lights. Jackie provided an update on the trailhead design work and other projects being pursued locally. The Council has been missing a Hyde Park representative and voice from the community at meetings.
- No print forms for trail maps

- Printed versions could be obtained through LVRT community grants.
- State trail brochures could be placed at kiosks.
- The council would like to see updated maps at every kiosk.

Trail Friendly Business Program Updates:

- Jackie is working with NRPC to develop web map platform for the program. ArcGIS based. The finalized map is expected to be ready near the end of June.
 - Jackie shows Vtrans Rail Trail Map & the MVRT map for TFBP reference
- Digital sign up form will be available online on the LEDC website.
 - Recommendation is to put the business sign up form in the same place as the map for simplicity.
- Will be dedicated to businesses for rail trail users.
 - The council will review criteria for business selection, locally managed.
 - Pat raised concerns about the politics of approval, and distance businesses can be from the trail. Is Stowe eligible? Jackie and Tori will follow up with the other regions to see if they share the same concerns.
- Discussion on disseminating TFBP to businesses. Municipal representatives can spread the word. Johnson would like to put business names at their trailhead center.

Ambassador Program:

- Orientation is 6/1, 9-11 a.m.
- 25-30 volunteers have signed up, most are from central and eastern sections of the LVRT.
- There will be material at the orientation such as maps, vests, gloves, etc.
- Post on FPF for more outreach

Next meeting (6/18): revisit TFBP, printing regional maps, and other possible community grant projects.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:31 a.m.