



## Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

Annual Meeting  
April 19, 2011  
VASA Headquarters  
South Barre, VT  
9am-2pm

Action Items are highlighted.

### In attendance:

Executive Committee: Danny Hale, Walter Opuszynski, Alexis Nelson  
Board: Gray Stevens, Amy Kelsey, Dave Hardy, Heidi Krantz  
Members: Tim Tierney, Kathryn Wrigley, Todd Taylor  
Guests: Kevin Russell, Christiane Skinner

### Danny: Call to order 9am

### VTGC Website Update: Walter Opuszynski

Walter walked the group through the process of updating and populating the webpage using “What You See Is What You Get” (WYSIWYG).

#### Questions to look into:

- Is there an auto-save as pages are being developed?
- Can we move the delete button to the other side of the page and make a note that once the page is deleted it is gone?
- Can we add a “volunteer” button?
- Can we link the website to our Facebook page?

We are still targeting a National Trails Day launch of the site. As sections are completed they will be shared with those who volunteered to populate them:

- Tim-Vermont Trail Jobs
- Walter and Justin- Education
- Danny- History
- Dave- VT Trail System
- Gray- Advocacy
- Sherry- Financial
- Doug- Technical
- Tamarack-Manual

## Vermont Tourism: Christine

Christiane walked us through the VT Tourism Website (<http://www.vermontvacation.com>) She highlighted the ways that recreation trail groups can be integrated and linked into the site. She also expressed that she is looking forward to the VTGC website being updated so she can link to it.

Christiane reminded the group that if you have a physical location for visitors you can be highlighted on the website. Also, all packages need to have lodging included to be highlighted on the website.

If you feel that there are any collaborations that your organization can have with VT Tourism please contact Christiane.

Contact Info:

**Christiane Skinner**

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## Trail Symposium: Danny Hale

Danny reminded the group to fill out the Trail Symposium Survey that Jessica created:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9DVSTS3>

Walter and Josh Ryan are working to develop a theme for this year's symposium and will also be soliciting presenters.

Amy explained that this year's Symposium will be held at Vermont Tech in Randolph.

## Green Mountain Trail Collaborative: Amy Kelsey

Amy has been soliciting feedback from all user groups on the VT Trail Ethics that were developed through Brian Cotteril's facilitated process. She received feedback from the Catamount Trail, the GMC, NFCT, Tom Butland, and VAST. She has been compiling all the feedback and will process it for review. Sherry and Walter will meet with Amy to review the feedback before passing it along to the GMTCC Stewardship and Communication Work Group.

The group reviewed the 10 proposed VT Trail Ethics again. Gray mentioned that he did not like number 8, "Report Misuse" because it was too vague.

## Mobility Devices: Danny Hale and Walter Opuszynski

We don't have enough information. It was suggested that everyone research the issue and the most up to date information seemed to be available on the American Trails website:

[http://www.americantrails.org/enewsletter/accessible\\_Jan\\_2011.html](http://www.americantrails.org/enewsletter/accessible_Jan_2011.html)

Kevin Russell volunteered to research the topic and report back to the group.

## **RTP Update: Danny Hale**

FFY 2012 begins October 1, 2012.

This year we have full funding that will fund about 24 community projects.

There are openings on the RTP review committee and we will look to Sherry for guidance on filling these spots.

## **Vermont Trail System**

Gray made a motion: Request that FPR better define the VTS incentives in the SCORP Plan and define any legislative changes needed to enforce the incentives.

Heidi seconded and all were in favor.

Kevin suggested that we ask the legal counsel of FPR to give a comprehensive review of the VT Trail System.

Dave Hardy suggested developing a committee to explore how to better engage FPR. Dave volunteered to chair the committee. The committee consists of Alexis, Kevin, Tim, Walter, and Heidi. The committee will meet to draft a proposal explaining how the VTGC can better engage FPR.

## **New Business**

### **ATV Rule Revocation: Danny Hale**

Danny explained that there will be a meeting for public review of the ATV rule revocation.

Danny requested that we resubmit the letter of support that the VTGC wrote for the original ruling in 2009.

Heidi made a motion to resubmit the letter, Gray seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Transportation Enhancement Grant Program: Kevin Russell**

Kevin introduced himself in his new role as VT Agency of Transportation, Transportation Enhancements Program coordinator. He passed out a description of the grant (See Attachment) and encouraged the group to apply if they had applicable projects. Kevin made himself available for any questions.

## **Old Business**

Heidi is attending the VT Horse Show in the end of April. She offered to hand out information about the VTGC. It was determined that we currently do not have an appropriate brochure and discussion ensued about the need to develop such information and if we should write a grant for its development.

It was questioned if the letters that Kathryn sent out to last year's members worked. It was determined that 5

groups renewed after the letters were sent out.

Awards were handed out to those who were not in attendance at last year's symposium:

Danny-Council Stewardship Award

Catamount Trail- Green Mountain Award

## **Nomination of officers:**

### **Executive Committee**

Chair: Walter Opuszynski

Vice Chair: Jessica Ricketson

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Amy Kelsey

### **Board**

Local: Tim Tierney

Regional: Dave Hardy and Heidi Krantz

Statewide: Danny Hale and Alexis Nelson

Commercial: Gray Stevens

Dave explained that Jessica was recommended as Secretary because there was concern of conflict of interest as she is a seasonal employee of FPR and we are a group that advises FPR. The group could not think of any potential conflicts of interest. It was also mentioned that Jessica operates as an individual member. The group voted unanimously to amend the slate and include Jessica as Vice Chair.

The executive committee will continue to recruit for the Secretary position and send their nomination to the board for approval.

## **Round Table**

Alexis: No fatalities in the 2010-2011 snow mobile season

VASA: Rule revocation, registrations down

Heidi: Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail are looking for options that could exist for the development of the rail trail

Todd: Trail Finder ins expanding to Franklin and Lamoille County with RTP funding

Gray: VOGA reported that it was a great winter for guides and they also received Doe Camp recognition

Amy: Great winter for the Catamount Trail. They had a lot of success with their kid's program

Tim: Also have a successful kid's program. Kingdom Trails expanded their trail stewards. May 21<sup>st</sup> they are hosting a party at Burke Mountain

Dave: The GMC is working to cross the Winooski River. They also have a new Executive Director, Will Winquist. GMC will also be able to support the VT Trail Symposium this year

**The next meeting will be held August 17<sup>th</sup> Time and location to be determined.**