



Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Inc.

Post Office Box 995, Morrisville, VT 05661

JUNE 2007

Inside this issue:

- St. J's Three Rivers Transportation Path still in planning process
- Exploring models for the future FLVRT
- Report finds that active outdoor recreation is more than just Big Fun – its huge economic driver in US
- Contact the county sheriffs to report any violations of law on the LVRT

Headlines:

FLVRT Bulletin Board	2
Exploring Models for the Future LVRT.....	2
LVRT Management Committee Report	2
FLVRT Website in the Works	3
Membership Summary	3
Law Enforcement on the LVRT	4
FLVRT Board Notes	5

What's been happening at the eastern end of the LVRT?

St. Johnsbury's Three Rivers Transportation Path (TRTP) has been in the "planning process" ever since 1992, according to recent articles in the local newspaper. Over \$700,000 of state and federal money has been expended as engineers from VTrans and independent firms have struggled to find solutions to the multiple problems they face in designing acceptable routing for the path's 1.52 miles. The TRTP is to be designated to be free from powered vehicles of any sort (emergency and disabled-access excepted.)

The eastern end of the TRTP begins on Bay Street in an industrial section adjacent to a lumberyard. It stays reasonably close to the Passumpsic River, crossing properties of Allen Lumber Co., CVPS, the old Ralston-Purina Mill complex, crosses a few seldom-used railroad spurs and finally the main line of Vermont's Washington County RR Co., CT River Division (WCRR). It then

joins the old St J&LC right-of way to cross beneath US Route 5 via the existing tunnel

At this point, plans remain unclear. The LVRT officially begins at 1.2 miles west from the junction with the WCRR. The simplest course might be to simply continue on the old St J&LC to the beginning of the LVRT, but it appeared desirable to loop it back to cross the Sleeper's River on St. Johnsbury Academy's footbridge – their access to a soccer field – then terminate on Barker Avenue, not far from the St. Johnsbury school (K-8) on Western Avenue. St. Johnsbury Academy stated that an upgrade to their footbridge is contemplated for access by emergency vehicles, and it might be better to have a separate bridge.

VAST's winter trail network has a connection from near the east end of the LVRT to the Comfort Inn by crossing US5 at grade, as snowmobile use of the existing 350'± long tunnel would be problematic at best. The only other all-season

access via public roadways is in the vicinity of the railroad yards. Adequate parking at each terminus remains to be determined, as does the transition from street level grade to the LVRT at a former railroad bridge not far from the 1.2 mile point.

Some recent public opinion has surfaced, noting the cost of the project to date, in view of nothing visible being accomplished in terms of formal approvals, easements, or actual construction.

Next year, St. Johnsbury School officials are planning to lift a ban on bicycling to school for youngsters in grades 5-8. That will add an interesting component to the mix of problems remaining to be solved.

~ Roger Damon

BECOME A MEMBER

Join the *Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail* now





A view down part of the LVRT
(photo by Becka Roof)

“Active outdoor recreation is more than just Big Fun – it is a huge economic driver throughout the United States.”

The Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail needs your support. Become a member today, or make a donation.

Your donations will be used to:

- Match grants for the trail’s planning & construction
- Build the constituency for non-motorized uses
- Educate the public & decision-makers about the trail

Thank you!

FLVRT BULLETIN BOARD – Report finds active outdoor recreation is huge economic driver across the U.S.

The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy by the Outdoor Industry Foundation, estimates the \$730 billion economic contribution of active outdoor recreation (bicycling, camping, fishing, hunting, paddling, snow sports, wildlife viewing, and trail- trail-running, hiking, climbing) to the US economy. The report demonstrates the active outdoor recreation

is more than just Big Fun – it is a huge economic driver throughout the United States. The report is more than just a tally of industry gear sales. It estimates travel-related expenditures, jobs and taxes generated, and includes a regional breakout of active outdoor recreation impacts on regional economies.

Anybody can download the full Active Outdoor

Recreation Economy Report for free by visiting www.outdoorindustry.org and pointing to Research & Resources :: Social Research :: Active Outdoor Recreation Economy Report

Exploring Models for the Future LVRT

The many kilometers of rail trails in Quebec provide nearby, well-developed models for the future network of trails in Vermont, especially the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Becka Roof of Going Green explored 500 miles / 800 kilometers of these trails last summer, and brought back many photos, maps, and publications. This spring, Becka took her photos on the road to share with FLVRT members and the

general public in Hardwick, Swanton, and Cambridge. (See photos at right) Participants had some great questions and discussions about the connections, and the network in Quebec! Thanks to Heidi Krantz, Bill Bartlett, Ken Hoepfner, and Zeke Zucker for hosting the presentations, and to Heather Dieringer for loaning her digital projector!

~ Becka Roof



Becka Roof presenting her slideshow and fielding questions from participants



LVRT Management Committee Report

The LVRT Committee (LVRTC) was set up by VAST to oversee the development of the LVRT into a premier year-round multi-use recreation path/trail that will have national and international recognition as one of the

finest Rail-Trails in the US and Canada. The LVRTC has been charged with the day-to-day conversion and management activities of the project. The LVRT Project Manager, Alan Robertson, PE, has been mapping via GPS the

entire length of the LVRT with the help of VAST personnel. The aim is to develop a comprehensive assessment of the entire trail, noting all structures (culverts, bridges, etc.) and mapping all areas that need work (washouts,

Continued on Page 4...

FLVRT Website in the Works

Development of a website for the Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is underway. An index for the home page is currently drafted and under review. The website will offer information on such things as becoming a member of FLVRT, current events affecting and related to the trail, and status updates on trail developments.

The Friends' newsletter will also become available through a link on the site, and additional links will point to the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (www.VTVAST.org) and The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail's site (www.LVRT.org).

A domain name has been secured and an ISP host is to be confirmed shortly. Heather Dieringer and John Roman, members of the outreach and membership committee, are heading-up efforts toward the site's development. They will unite their IT and website development skills with research and resources to develop an accessible, informational, and fun website.

The site will be thoughtfully designed for an audience most interested in non-motorized uses of the trail, but will be welcoming to all trail users and interested parties. The design will be

simple to begin with, and is expected to expand as the trail develops and interests intensify. Funding will play a vital role in the development and expediency of the site's development, and it is anticipated that once on-line the site's promotional value will booster membership and provide a strong communication medium.

~ John Roman

For more information about the trail, we also recommend checking out these websites...

www.vtvast.org

www.lvrt.org

"The website will offer information on such things as becoming a member of FLVRT, current events affecting and related to the trail, and status updates on trail developments."

Friends of the LVRT Membership summary

Currently the FLVRT have 190 individual and family members and 25 business members. While the majority of these members are from Lamoille County communities, we have members in every town along the Trail and several members from Towns not directly along the Trail. The goal of the Membership Committee is to expand our total membership to between

300 and 500 members in 2007.

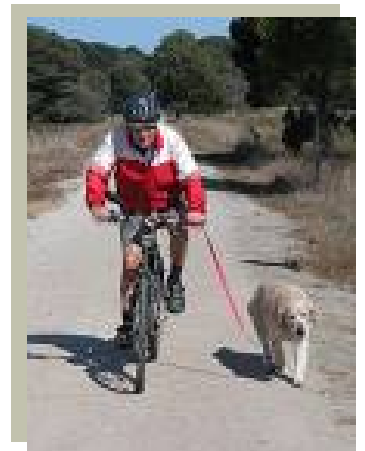
Based on information provided on their membership forms our members, on average, would use the LVRT for some combination of between 3 and 4 recreational uses.

The most popular prospective recreational uses of the LVRT are, in order of preference:

- Biking
- Walking/ Jogging
- Cross Country Skiing/ Snow shoeing
- Hiking
- Bird watching
- Equestrian
- Commuting/ Transportation
- Mushing

~ Bill Bartlett

Biking is the #1 most popular prospective recreational use of the LVRT



Our Mission: To support the development, maintenance, and promotion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail as a public resource offering a tranquil and scenic year-round multi-use recreation and transportation corridor; and especially to represent the interests of non-motorized trail users.

The Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail needs your support. Become a member today, or make a donation. The upcoming membership year is July 2007 to June 2008. Please complete the membership form on the last page, then fold the sheet in half with the completed membership form facing inside and send it to us. We will process the form then send you an acknowledgment of membership and request for payment. If you prefer to send a check along now, please forward it, together with the completed membership form, to us at Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Inc., PO Box 995, Morrisville, VT 05661.

Thank you!

Board of Directors

Heidi Krantz, *President*
Morrisville, 888-1731
trg@pshift.com

Ken Hoepfner, *Vice-President*
Jeffersonville, 644-5771
kenandsue@hoepfner.com

Bill Bartlett, *Treasurer*
Hyde Park, 888-5591
paiirfarmbb@aol.com

Laural Ruggles, *Secretary*
Glover, 748-7590
l.ruggles@nvrh.org

Roger Damon, St. Johnsbury
748-3630 rogdoris@sover.net

Red Goodman, Waitsfield
224-6514 president@vtmushers.org

Robert Ide, Peacham
592-3995 robert.ide@state.vt.us

Cynthia Lyon-Hill, Morrisville
888-2074
clyon-hill@luhs.k12vt.us

David Polow, Morrisville
888-7707 polowlaw@aol.com

Leon Whitcomb, Morrisville
888-7716 lawhitcomb@aol.com

Law Enforcement on the LVRT

All violations of Vermont law, including trespass issues, on the LVRT should be reported to one of the county sheriffs. They will be responsible for investigation and follow-up of all complaints and violations of law. County sheriffs will also be responsible for patrols on the LVRT and will be working cooperatively with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife in an effort to provide these services. Here is the contact information for the sheriff in each of the counties along the LVRT:

Caledonia County
Sheriff Michael Bergeron

1126 Main Street, Suite 2
St. Johnsbury VT 05819
802-748-6666

Lamoille County
Sheriff Roger Marcoux
222 Main Street
PO Box 96
Hyde Park VT 05655-0096
802-888-3502

Franklin County
Sheriff Robert Norris
330 Lincoln Avenue
PO Box 367
St. Albans VT 05478-0367
802-524-2121

If a caller is unable to contact the appropriate sheriff's department, they should call the Vermont State Police dispatcher in

their district and advise them that they have a LVRT issue and ask that the on-call Vermont Fish and Wildlife warden for their district/county be dispatched to investigate the violation. The on-call warden will then respond to the call or complaint. The telephone numbers for the regional Vermont State Police offices are as follows:

Caledonia County
1-802-748-3111

Lamoille County
1-802-878-7111

Franklin County
1-802-524-5993

Management Committee Report

...Continued from Page 2

missing bridges, etc.). This work will then be used to develop the comprehensive plan to prevent further deterioration of trail structures and to ready the trail for 4-season use.

The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Advisory Committee (LAC) is putting the final touches on its organization. The LAC will comprise representatives from the three regional planning commissions, local business, and adjacent landowners, and

will serve in an advisory capacity to the LVRT Committee. The LAC will advocate for the public in the planning and operation of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, acting as a liaison between local communities and the LVRTC, VAST and VTTrans, and provide local and regional input regarding issues important to each of the three regions as they relate to the trail.

~ Red Goodman and
Ken Hoepfner

Horseback riding on a sunny summer day is the perfect way to enjoy the trail!



FLVRT Board Notes

The FLVRT Board has been able to focus on topics related to the growth of the Friends the last few months. We work together well, and we are generally through a packed schedule in 2 hours or less, including a meal and some socializing. It's a pleasure to work with a board that is focused, effective and fun!

Our main focus between March and June has been outreach – we are proud of our first newsletter and that we have produced a second filled with news about this great trail. We have also discussed the creation of a website for the Friends and are hopeful that this will be a valuable tool for folks to keep up with what's happening on the trail. We are fortunate to have Board members and volunteers who are taking the

lead with these two important efforts at getting the word out about the Friends and the trail – thanks to Bill Bartlett, Becca Roof, John Roman and Heather Dieringer for their efforts.

Dave Polow has taken on the task of completing the application process for our 501c3 status as a non-profit. This will allow donors to take advantage of tax deductions for their gifts to the Friends and will also enable the Friends to apply for a wider variety of grants. We hope to complete this process by the fall.

We have discussed a number of grant opportunities and agreed to pursue a Transportation Enhancement Grant that will focus on planning for pedestrian

amenities along the trail. Laural Ruggles and Becca Roof are taking the lead on this project. The application is due in August.

Fund raising is an important job for any Board and we have started planning our long-range strategy while embarking on a membership recruitment effort in the short term. Creating a strong membership base is critical for the health of the Friends and the trail. Creating a strategic approach to membership development, donations, sponsorships and grant writing is key to our success.

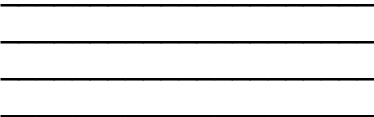
The Board continues to develop its relationship with VAST through representation on the Trail Committee. The partnership is young but

strong. We are also working with a coalition of other bike and pedestrian organizations to develop a strong network to support our efforts.

It seems hard to believe that it's time to plan for our next annual meeting, but believe it or not we also created a Nominating Committee to help us prepare for the next elections in November. Ken Hoepfner, Dave Polow and Robert Ide have agreed to sit on this important committee.

We are all anxious to start some physical work on the trail, but the work we accomplish now will ensure the success of the trail – many thanks to the Board members and volunteers who are keeping us on track!

~ Heidi Krantz



Postage
Required

FRIENDS OF THE LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL
POST OFFICE BOX 995
MORRISVILLE, VT 05661



Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Inc.

"To support the development, maintenance, and promotion of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail as a public resource offering a tranquil and scenic year-round multi-use recreation and transportation corridor; and especially to represent the interests of non-motorized trail users"

POST OFFICE BOX 995, MORRISVILLE, VT 05661

Become a member! (or renew your membership)

Our membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

\$10 Individual \$20 Family/Household

\$25 Business/Organization

Additional Donation:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500

Thank you for your support!

I am interested in using the LVRT for:

- biking birding commuting
- equestrian fishing hiking jogging
- mushing snowshoeing walking
- xc skiing other _____

I am interested in management involvement such as being on the board of directors, standing committees, trail work groups.

You may publish my contact information with other Friends. Yes No

Name _____

Affiliation (if any) _____
Such as recreation group, town, business.

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

(Providing your email address will allow us to send you our newsletter electronically and save valuable dollars. We may also occasionally send news alerts or other communications.)

Please write any messages or concerns on the back of this form.

Thank You!

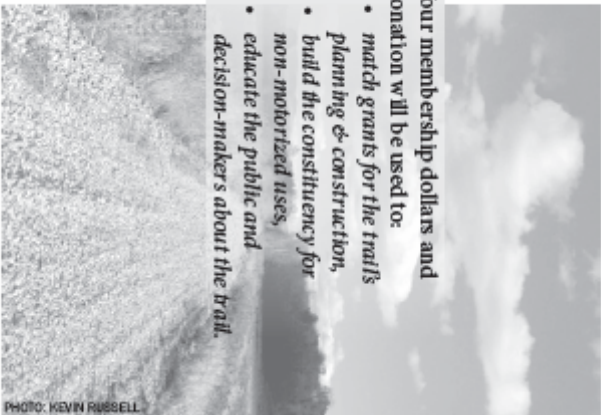


PHOTO: KEVIN RUSSELL

Your membership dollars and donation will be used to:

- match grants for the trails planning & construction,
- build the constituency for non-motorized uses,
- educate the public and decision-makers about the trail.

**FRIENDS OF THE LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 995
MORRISVILLE, VT 05661**

Postage
Required

**MEMBER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000**