

Meeting Minutes, Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee Meeting
Thursday, 6/15/23, 5:00 p.m.
Town Offices, Upstairs Meeting Room

Present: Doug Molde, Jan Gearhart, Adrienne Stevson, Yva Rose, Kyle Nuse, Allieson Kratzat, Peggy Williams, Casey Romero.

Absent: BJ Putvain, Shayne Spence (Selectboard representative).

1. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.
2. Approve Minutes from May 31, 2023 Meeting Doug moved to accept minutes from last meeting. Casey seconded. Motion passed.
3. Shayne Spence, Information from Selectboard Allie mentioned Shayne reached out to Johnson Works regarding collaboration for Johnson's participation in the Governor's celebration ride. Johnson Works is interested in collaboration but nothing further discussed.
4. Doug Molde, Information from Regional LVRT Council
 - Next meeting is 6/20/23 at 11:00AM
 - Victoria Hellwig is the new head of the committee
 - Doug provided agenda items for the 6/20 meeting, including feedback on LVRT website and interactive map

Allie reported that she attended the village trustee meeting and introduced the Rail Trail committee to the trustees. She informed them of our intent to pitch bike lanes, upgraded signage and Rail Trail celebration participation. Trustees were supportive.

5. Prep for Selectboard Meeting 6/19 Allie confirmed the rail trail committee made the agenda. Committee participants must be there by 7PM.

Rail trail committee intends to present the idea of creating a bike lane into the village, upgrading village blue rail trail signs and discussing the Governor's celebration ride.

Bike lanes - Yva will provide information regarding the impacts bike lanes make in rail trail communities to the group in the event that she is unable to make the selectboard meeting and pitch it herself.

Kyle mentioned a shorter term solution would be a sunflower trail from the intersection of the rail trail and Railroad street, down railroad street and into the village. She reached out to Greg Tatro regarding beginning this trail on his property and Greg was very supportive. This project would be implemented by the Beautification committee. Doug suggested Kate Lally as a resource for the project.

Upgrading signage - This is part of an effort to rebrand Johnson. Adrienne will contact Victoria Hellwig regarding appropriate signage. Adrienne volunteered to create the signs. Will the Selectboard approve the funding? Where will the funding come from? LCPC was identified as a good resource for this question.

6. LVRT Opening Celebration 7/15 Governor's celebration ride - Group speculated on what time the governor will cycle through Johnson. It was estimated between 11:30AM - 12:30PM. Doug mentioned Greg Tatro is willing and interested in contacting someone regarding an invite to the governor to stop at the Johnson trailhead.

Casey suggested the idea of a photo opp with Governor Scott in the Johnson train car. Doug suggested the Selectboard prepare and present an honorary “Official Johnson Rail Trail Conductor” certificate.

Can we get a crowd present with signs, balloons, ice cream?

Can we invite the News and Citizen to attend the Johnson celebration of the Governor's ride? Governor's celebration ride ?

7. Continued Discussion: Needs & Wants, Committee Priorities Peggy provided examples of marketing material for the Johnson section of Rail Trail and the town/village. Peggy asked if we can provide a container for the Discovery Maps at the trailhead. She also asked about signage regarding non-motorized vehicles and recent complaints of motorized vehicles on the Rail Trail.

Yva mentioned the rail trail ambassador program is planning on addressing the issue and in partnership with VTrans is coming up with a solution.

Casey presented the vtrans rail trail map of Johnson and identified what is missing including trail features, access points, a variety and parking opportunities and trailside businesses. Doug also mentioned the need for the map to include important attractions, specs and accessible trail networks. Jan asked about creating our own map, specifically of Johnson. Allie volunteered the possibility of her husband assisting, who is a geographer. Casey suggested LCPC could do proper cartography and should be easy to work with. Allie mentioned the map could then be passed to Adrienne to create the final product. Adrienne mentioned the end goal should be a PDF accessible map for print or press.

Peggy asked who owns the parking area across from Johnson Hardware. Is this another parking opportunity?

Jan stated she reached out to Johnson Hardware to engage them in our efforts.

8. Continued Discussion: Committee Documents / Storage Tabled for another time, by consensus.

9. Public Input None.

10. Next Meeting Date Weds. 6/28/23 at 5:30 p.m.

11. Other Business None.

12. Adjourn 6:40 p.m. by consensus.