

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
VOREC Grant Implementation Committee
Minutes of September 9, 2024

- I. Roll Call.** Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Grant Implementation Committee Chair Deborah Zuaro, members Russ Barrett, Colin Bright, Kim Caldwell (absent), Melody Currier, Jason Endres, Lucas Herring, Andrew Padilla, and Lydia Petty.

Committee Chair Zuaro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- II. Public Participation (Scheduled):** None.

- III. Approval of Minutes: August 12, 2024.** Motion by Committee member Petty, seconded by Committee member Bright, to approve the minutes.
Motion passed 8-0-0.

- IV. Discussion**

- a. Review of Wayfinding Map Changes.** Committee Chair Zuaro said Committee member Endres had done a lot of work cleaning up the map files so that they could be sent to the sign manufacturer. She is very impressed with how the map now appears. Committee member Endres said some map features were simplified in order to assist map users go from place to place as indicated on the map. The separate trails have been color coded on the map and also indicated by the first letter of the official trail name, i.e. **Red**, **Blue**, **Lybrand**, etc. The committee members then discussed how to better indicate on the map when a trail user leaves the Town Forest and enters Norwich University (NU) or private property. There will be appropriately colored blaze signs along the trail system so people don't go off-trail. The committee members suggested only minor changes to the revised wayfinding map, such as making certain Town Forest features more prominent on the map. Committee Chair Zuaro thanked Committee member Endres again for all the excellent work he did updating and finalizing this map.
- b. "Night on the Common" (09/17/24).** Committee Chair Zuaro asked if the updated wayfinding map should be put on display to the public on that night. She noted that Nigel Hicks-Tibbles from the Northfield Conservation Commission (NCC) has agreed to display VOREC materials at the booth he will be overseeing for NCC and the Town Forest Stewardship Committee (TFSC). Committee Chair Zuaro asked if any committee members could also attend that night to help Mr. Hicks-Tibbles, she would be grateful. She also will confirm that NCC actually has space on the Common reserved that night and will make sure copies of the appropriate wayfinding maps, trail maps, etc. are on hand for public distribution then.

- c. **SE Group Report Slides.** The committee members reviewed a series of slides related to the economic impact study the SE Group is now finalizing. Committee member Petty noted the SE Group wanted to close out this report by the end of this month and would like any suggested changes sent by September 22, 2024. It was noted that the SE Group would like a recent photograph of the Northfield Farmers Market to be included in the report and that should be sent to them as soon as possible. Committee Chair Zuaro will contact them again, probably through a ZOOM meeting, before the 09/22/24 deadline.
- d. **Sign Mock-ups.** Committee Chair Zuaro showed the signage images provided by the sign manufacturer (Wodd & Wood). The committee members were largely pleased with the results and hoped that the new signs would be produced and installed within the next couple of months. Committee member Padilla, who manages the Shaw Outdoor Center, said NU student volunteers would be providing some assistance with the sign installation. The larger and heavier sign might require professional services to properly install.
- e. **Road Signs from Work Safe in Barre.** Committee Chair Zuaro said the committee members previously approved a plan to purchase and install recreational facility directional signs on existing street signposts. Committee Chair Zuaro has contacted Work Safe for sign quotes as that is the company that provides custom street signs for the municipality. As the signs will have to be double-sided, the total cost is now estimated at about \$1,000, which is within the proposed budget for such directional signs. After some discussion, the consensus was to have “reversed” colors on the directional signs, i.e. white signs with green lettering, to distinguish them from the regular street signs. Board member Petty thought it was important to have directional signs pointing to the Shaw Outdoor Center as many residents don’t know where it is and whether or not they are allowed to park there. There also will be a directional sign at the bottom of Prospect Street that would direct people to Cheney Field parking areas. Committee Chair Zuaro will contact Work Safe again regarding possible sign display options and updated cost estimates.

V. Other Business

- a. **Next Meeting Date.** The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday, October 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. As the Community Room is booked at that time, the meeting will be held in the Municipal Building

VI. Public Participation (Unscheduled). There was none.

VII. Adjournment. Motion by Committee member Barrett, seconded by Committee member Petty, to adjourn. **Motion passed 8-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.