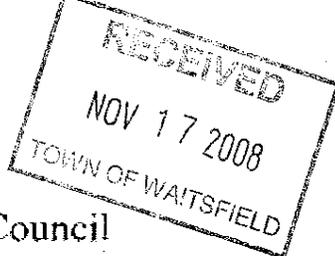


Vermont Trails & Greenways Council



*Helping to Shape the Future of
Vermont Recreation.*

Dear Board of Selectpersons, Town Clerks and Auditors:

On behalf of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council, we hope this letter finds your community closing out a good 2008 and anticipating a hopeful 2009. We respectfully request your support by including an appropriation of \$30.00 in your 2009 Selectboard budget. Being an organization with state-wide responsibility we are not able to petition each town, so we ask that this small amount be included in your budget.

For over a decade, the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council has been your voice for recreation, trails and conservation issues throughout the state. Our membership is comprised of a wide variety of outdoor groups – organizations that work hard, both statewide and at the community level, to provide comprehensive public access to Vermont's recreation resources. Because the Council embraces a broad spectrum of user groups, we are often able to speak with one voice in our efforts to expand and protect public access to trail lands, acquire State and Federal trail dollars and steward natural resources.

Your donation of support will provide a voice for trail interests throughout Vermont. The Vermont Trails and Greenways Council is working to shape the future of recreation in Vermont – for all users. Here are a few of the groups represented in the Council today: walkers and joggers, cross-country skiers, bicyclists, mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians, snowmobilers, mushers, Off Road Vehicle users, paddlers, municipalities, community path organizations, local and regional planners, land trusts, conservation and recreation committees, guides and private individuals.

The projects the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council plans to continue to work on include:

- ❖ Hosting **quarterly meetings** to keep you up-to-date on Vermont events, projects and policies and provide important networking opportunities to share and learn with people across the state,
- ❖ Connecting members through our **biannual newsletter**. Keeping you informed with trail updates as well as feature articles on issues affecting trails in Vermont,
- ❖ Following progress with Vermont's new **Ancient Roads** legislation,
- ❖ Advising the Vermont Department of Forests, Park and Recreation on revisions to the **Vermont Trail System**,
- ❖ Developing and distributing the **Vermont Trails and Greenways Manual** – a resource guide for creating and managing community trails projects
- ❖ Providing guidance with the **Vermont Recreation Trails Fund**, an important funding source for trails projects,
- ❖ Participating in the development of the **Lamoille Valley Rail Trail**,
- ❖ Advocating for trail users in the **Vermont Legislature** and with **State and Federal Agencies** to secure trail funding, ensure public access to trails, and protect trail lands, and
- ❖ Providing **community assistance** - members of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council have decades of collective trail experience and can assist you in planning, funding and creating your next trail project.

Please consider this letter your \$30.00 invoice and feel free to contact us with your ideas. By working together we can arrive at solutions which will continue to improve our communities. For more information on how the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council directly supports outreach, education and advocacy work, please contact me at (802) 229-2997 or any members of our Board of Director's on the attached list.

We hope you will become involved and help us shape the future of recreation in Vermont.

Sincerely,

Danny Hale, Chair

Please make payments to: *Vermont Trails and Greenways Council*
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Vermont Trails & Greenways Council
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