

5/11 VCLN Workshop

Framing a Process for Public Engagement: Strengthening Our Work by Broadening the Conversation

WHO'S ON THE CALL?

Nick Kramer: Nick Kramer, VCRD, Corinth!

KEVIN LAMBERT: Kevin Lambert with USDA RD, zooming from Monkton VT

Lydia Petty: Lydia from Northfield. I'm a co-chair for our Better Connections project Ridge + River Routes and a member of our Town Forest Stewardship Committee

Nick Bennette: Nick Bennette, he/him, ED of VMBA, currently in Shrewsbury

Paul Chambers: Paul Chambers, director Brighton Recreation, Island Pond

Nicole Draper-Swanton Recreation: Good Morning Everyone, Nicole Draper, Program Director Swanton Recreation, Swanton Selectboard

Mariah Noth: Mariah Noth, Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program, Burlington!

Philip Kolling: Good Morning, Phil Kolling with SerVermont and I'm in Barre Town this morning

KEN BUSHEY: Hello, Ken Bushey Selectman Vershire, We are interested in starting a rec. committee

Alice Stewart: Alice Stewart, RiseVT based out of Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, but I'm Zooming in from Thetford - and competing for bandwidth with family members

Carl Demrow: Carl Demrow, Corinth, volunteer and board member at Northeast Slopes in Corinth

Peggy Shinn: Peggy Shinn, co-founder/organizer Gritty Girls, Pine Hill Partnership board member, Rutland, VT

Lisa Crews – Coordinator: Hello, I am the Rec. Coordinator in Johnson. We have a large area of land that we hope to develop in the near future. My work computer is telling me that it has no camera (or microphone because I am using ancient earbuds), I will be listening in and looking forward to learning from you all.

Melissa Levy: Melissa Levy, Community Roots and Hinesburg Economic Development Committee.

DISCUSSION

Nick Bennette: I'll be listening for most of the rest of the time, but would love to follow up with anyone interested!

Jon Copans: My 7 year old boy was very interested in the old car that drives to tow rope.

Ideas for getting the word out / finding out about outdoor rec programs:

Lisa Crews - Coordinator: FrontPorchForum and the School Newsletters

Alice Stewart: bulletin board at the post office (Thetford has a lot of post offices . . .)

Rebecca Copans: How great would it be if we could have one place where Vermonters could search by region/town for all available programs!

Rebecca Copans: This was a great topic, thanks to all of you for sharing your knowledge!

Alice Stewart: we do volunteer highlights on social media - these tend to get lots of traction and lead to more people volunteering

Alana Phinney - ParkDancing.org: Keep your eye out for events in Waterbury on the Commons right next to the Grange Hall Cultural Center. Thank you!

Alana Phinney - ParkDancing.org: Really grateful to hear about trail maps and bike enthusiasm! My ten year old is an avid mountain biker.:) Please don't hesitate to reach out to connect on Park Dancing!

Paul Chambers: That's a great idea

Alice Stewart: Many libraries have snowshoes for check out - storing bigger things might be a challenge, but could be something to explore.

Lydia Petty: We've been talking about trying to expand a gear library here in Northfield. It's nice that some libraries are lending things like snowshoes, but it'd be nice to provide more variety of gear

Laura Arnesen: How does liability intersect with a gear library?

Alice Stewart: the E-bike lending library is awesome, Our Energy Committee did it last year

KEN BUSHEY: We are in the initial stages of starting a rec. committee for our town of Vershire. Could you provide us with us some resources of where to start for maybe grants etc...

Lydia Petty: Anyone want to speak to how they convinced their select boards and municipal government to value recreation especially by hiring a rec coordinator?

Alice Stewart: Community surveys can be very persuasive for SBs if you get a good response rate

Lydia Petty: What about tourist phobic communities? Yes, curious to hear how that works.

Lydia Petty: Awesome presentations! thank you so much

Meridith McFarland, Bristol Recreation Director: Great presentation! Thank you.

Nicole Draper-Swanton Recreation: Thank you so much everyone for your time today!

KEN BUSHEY: Thanks

RESOURCES / PARTNER CONTACT INFO

Nick Kramer, VCRD:

Here's the link to the Workshop Library: <https://www.vtrural.org/leadership/workshops/library>.

Here's the link to the Leadership Guide: <https://www.vtrural.org/leadership/guide>.

Here's the link to register for upcoming workshops: <https://www.vtrural.org/leadership/workshops>.

Jon Copans: We will post a copy of the slides along with a recording of the workshop. At the same link that Nick just shared above.

Alice Stewart: Here's the link to the list of program managers for RiseVT <https://www.onecarevt.org/about-risevt/>

Nicole Draper-Swanton Recreation: Paul that's a great map, thank you for sharing

Rebecca Copans: Does anyone know of an effort to consolidate all of these fantastic rec maps in one place?

Alice Stewart: @Rebecca Copans - best rec map for VT and NH is here: <https://www.uvtrails.org/find-a-trail/>

I pasted the old link - forgot that they have two now - the UV one is more local, this is the more comprehensive one: <https://www.trailfinder.info/>

Rebecca Copans: Thanks, Alice!

Paul Chambers: Rebecca, that's a great question that I asked at a meeting the other day. I can think of specific niches within the recreation world that have consolidated mapping efforts. Thanks Alice for sharing that link! I would though like to explore an effort to further consolidate - our rec asset map is a really useful tool, but hard to get into the hands of potential visitors.

Peggy Shinn: There's a good "borderlands" map for mountain biking in northern VT. <https://www.bikeborderlands.com/>

Laura Arnesen: What is the grant matching opportunity for infrastructure?

Carl Demrow: <https://bgs.vermont.gov/commissioner/building-communities-grants>