

## Brief history of Millstone Trails Association

Established by Pierre Couture and Pete Richardson in June of 2005

**Mission of Millstone Trails Assoc.** (As stated in June 2005 Grand Opening announcement):

- 1) To create one of Vermont's most unique non-motorized recreational areas in hopes of fostering and promoting local economic development.
- 2) To provide Central Vermont residents with accessible and affordable non-motorized recreational opportunities.
- 3) To draw enthusiasts regionally and nationally to Central Vermont to experience this unique setting for recreation.
- 4) To work in conjunction with local schools and other Central Vermont organizations such as the Granite Museum and State History Museum in making locals and tourists alike more aware and appreciative of Barre's fascinating Granite heritage.

**Original Board of Directors:** **Pierre Couture, president. Mike Fraysier, Vice President** (Vermont Dept. of Forest Parks and Recreation and Barre Bike Path Committee member). **Don Carpenter, Treasurer** (head partner of Darling and Kelly accounting firm). **Stephan Mayr, Secretary.** **Tess Taylor,** (executive director of Vermont Granite Museum). **Warren Kitzmiller,** (founder of Onion River Sports and state legislator). **Beth Hulbert** (head of Barre Town Recreation Committee). **Pete Richardson, Rob Barrett, Phillip Roberts.** (Stephan Mayr, Rob Barrett, and Phillip Roberts were avid mountain bikers and friends of Pete Richardson) **Consulting Attorney: Dot Helling.**

**Present Board of Directors:** **Mike Fraysier, Acting President. Tom Babic, Treasurer** (Salvador and Babic). **Jean Coello, Secretary. Dave Freeman, Denise Bergeron, Dirk Anderson** (attorney), **Steve Gilmore, Pierre Couture.**

**Retired Board Members** (Not already mentioned above): Bob Phillips (Spaulding H.S. principal), Tom Shea, Mark Dodge, John Valsongiacamo (attorney), Dan Mahoney, Andrew Wellman, David Packie, Susan Yessalonia (Norwich University).

The Millstone Trails Assoc. received its 501 3C non profit status on Jan. 11, 2007. The Millstone Trails Association is not affiliated with the Millstone Hill Lodge or the Millstone Hill Store, both of which are private businesses. The Store does provide space to Millstone Trails Association for a nominal fee which is used as a location for selling trail passes and providing information about MTA and the trail network.

The Millstone Trails Association is a fully transparent organization. Copies of our Bylaws, the minutes of our Board of Directors meetings and annual membership meetings as well as all financial statements prepared over the last 6 years are available to the public upon request.

**The existing Millstone Trails Association policy follows a "pay to use" model.** We believe that those who use the trail network regularly, need to support it by either becoming a member or by volunteering to help manage the organization or maintain the trails themselves. We have trail work days throughout the spring and summer. Those who participate receive free passes that can be given away or combined to purchase a membership. Those who volunteer to be on our Board of Directors or our Trails Committee receive a free membership. Under this format anyone who cannot afford a membership can work to become a member.

We do not believe that those not using the trails should pay for its upkeep. **We have never asked for or received a penny from the Town of Barre for the development or upkeep of our 70 mile trail network.** Those who use the network and refuse to contribute are taking advantage of our members. 100% of our revenues are used to maintain the trail network. Our single biggest overhead expense is liability insurance. None of our board of directors or committee members receive any payment for their many volunteer hours.

MTA depends on a dedicated corps of volunteers to get things done. Collectively, **dozens of volunteers have contributed thousands of hours of time** to establish MTA's trails system. MTA is also fortunate that it has an active and engaged Board of Directors, who together with other volunteers, develop, manage and maintain trail resources, market and promote the trails, secure landowner agreements, develop partnerships, organize races and special events, and keep the organization afloat.

**In its five years of existence, has the Millstone Trails Association met its mission?**

We believe strongly that we have and we are committed to continue to build on this.

- 1) To create one of Vermont's most unique non-motorized recreational areas in hopes of fostering and promoting local economic development.

What was, until recently, considered by most to be an industrial wasteland, is now considered by many to be "Vermont's Man Made Natural Wonder". We have been enthusiastically written up by many major publications including The Boston Globe, which rated us the number two mountain bike center in New England, Bike Magazine and most recently by Mountain Bike Magazine, which rated us one of the best new mountain bike networks in the Country. In the last five years we have been featured in many New England newspapers, La Presse in Montreal, the Vermont Magazine and Vermont Life, just to name a few. **The recreational model promoted by The Millstone Trails network itself has already and will continue to create jobs.** In addition local businesses such as Northern Power have publicly stated that the proximity of the Millstone Trails network is a valuable asset for them in recruiting the necessary labor they need to continue to expand and the Barre Area Development has likewise stated that the Millstone Trails network is important to them in attracting new business to Barre.

- 2) To provide Central Vermont residents with accessible and affordable non-motorized recreational opportunities.

The Millstone Trails Association has created over 70 miles of trails connecting the three villages of East Barre, Websterville and Graniteville. Our world-class trail network has a fee structure that is among the lowest (and in many cases **the** lowest) of any trail network in Vermont. Those who cannot afford to pay can volunteer to earn membership.

- 3) To draw enthusiasts regionally and nationally to Central Vermont to experience this unique setting for recreation.

Since it's opening, hundreds of visitors from all over America have come to Barre to experience The Trails at Millstone Hill. Based on the growth we are experiencing this year, this will soon be in the thousands. In the last few years it has been increasingly difficult to get tourists to visit Barre. Millstone Hill offers a unique opportunity to repackage Barre's unique and colorful granite heritage into something that has the potential to make a difference. Recreation is one of the most successful industries in Vermont. Isn't it time that Barre get in on this growth industry? The hundreds of visitors we have pulled in have stayed in Barre hotels and campgrounds, eaten in Barre restaurants, shopped in Barre stores and gone home

enthusiastically singing the praises of Millstone Hill's extraordinary trails and scenery. It is this enthusiasm for what they experience here that is fueling our growth.

4) To work in conjunction with local schools and other Central Vermont organizations such as the Granite Museum and State History Museum in making locals and tourists alike more aware and appreciative of Barre's fascinating granite heritage.

Since opening 5 years ago we have:

- Helped Barre Town School develop a mountain bike program.
- Worked with the Central Vermont Hospital to offer health walks and programs.
- Sponsored a regional celebration as part of the opening of the new Bike Path.
- Worked with the Boy Scouts to host an annual Camporee.
- Worked with the Spaulding H. S. Cross Country Team to host their practices and host an invitational.
- Developed a community wide Winter Carnival
- Worked with Studio Place Arts (SPA) to sponsor a snow sculpture competition.
- Worked with SPA to host an international arts exhibit.
- Developed and opened a granite museum with The Vermont Granite Museum.
- Worked with local bike enthusiasts to create a popular bike race known as the Millstone Grind
- Donated dozens of free seasons passes to area nonprofits
- Sponsored and hosted many historic quarry tours for the public
- Sponsored and hosted many historic quarry tours for local schools
- Obtained a grant to develop 36 interpretive signs, which will be installed later this year throughout the trail network thus creating a Millstone Hill cultural heritage trail.