

VAST Board of Directors – February 24, 2020 – Meeting Minutes

Approved at the May 26, 2020 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Absent
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Treasurer: Sonia Koehler
Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Vacant
Caledonia: Ken Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Mike Daley
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd
Lamoille: Ellis O'Hear
Orange: Absent
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Curt Marechaux
Washington: Absent
Windham: Drew Fraser
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Ivor Stevens, Windham County; Doug Jacobs, Windsor County.

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
Trails Manager: Ken Brown
Office Coordinator: Cyndy Carrier Brown

GUESTS PRESENT: John Hull, President of NEKSB, Summer Ladd, Alburg Sno Springers.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Roger Gosselin moved to approve; Curt Marechaux seconded; motion carried.

Cindy Locke – I would like to add line item B - TMA numbers.

Jeff Fay – I would like to add an Executive Session – Personnel.

Secretary's Report: Ellis O'Hear moved to approve; Lewis Barnes seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for December – Pat Poulin moved to approve; Curt Marechaux seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for January – Dave Ladd moved to approve; Drew Fraser seconded; motion carried.

Old Business

LVRT Status

- Ken Brown - Continuing with repairs from the Halloween Storm; have FEMA funding.
- Working with all the clubs that were impacted; but so far it's just Lamoille County.
- We are hoping FEMA can delay the repairs until March so we can keep the trails open, but we have to go by their schedule because it's their money fixing the trail.
- Cindy Locke – I'm going to be at the State House in Senate Transportation Committee with the Secretary of Transportation to finish the funding strategy for the LVRT.

TMA Numbers

Cindy Locke handed out a revised / updated copy of the TMA Report.

Total TMAs sold to date (2/24/2020) – 18,310; but there are some clubs, a few of which are large, that have not turned in Regular Season TMAs yet.

Early Birds have all been turned in except for one club.

NEKSB's Repayment Question

- Cindy Locke – I have invited John Hull, President of the NEKSB's to be here for this discussion.
- The total loan amount was for \$22,000; they have currently paid \$8,800 of that, so there is a balance of \$13,200.
- Cindy read the details of the motion regarding this, from the 2014 Board minutes, and that they were given the option of coming back to the Board **to discuss the agreement in 2017**.
- This loan was in relation to Trail 105, which is used a lot.
- The Club, this year, has sold 406 Early Bird TMAs.
- Grooming contract is 64 miles - \$43,000.
- Jim Hill and Pat Poulin thought that the club should come back with a proposal.
- John Hull – We were thinking maybe half of the remaining balance.
- Roger Gosselin – I'll make a motion that we cut it down by 25% to \$9,900, Mike Daley seconded; motion carried.
- Curt Marechaux – \$9,900 but extend the time frame?
- Pat Poulin - Would it help the club to lower the payment, or is it doable?
- Jeff Fay – \$9,900 over 6 years; annual payment would be \$1,650.
- Ivor Stevens noted that County Trail Coordinators need to review projects carefully.

TTT Club Loan Request

- Matt Tetreault – Most of the information is in my report.
- They are looking to us for \$22,576.96 for capital repairs to their 2003 groomer.
- We gave them \$8,000 in a grant to help.
- \$6,077 was approved previously at the Merchants and they want to roll that over to the NSB.
- Tracks and repayment is roughly \$30,000.
- Weekly average grooming is 8.4 / 32 miles.

Pat Poulin moved to approve; Lewis Barnes seconded, to approve a guarantee of a Northfield Savings Bank loan of \$22,576.96 for Capital Repairs.

Signing Issues

- Cindy Locke – Safety Ambassadors have been out and reaching out to clubs with sign issues.
- Some clubs signs are great, some are not good at all, and a lot in between.
- Continue to talk about signing and how important it is; especially Stop and Stop Ahead.
- Longer stakes, snow covers the signs up pretty fast.
- Curt Marechaux – It is important to have monthly meetings with the Trailmasters there.
- Jeff Fay – I have given an assignment to each County Trail Coordinator to ride their trails and report back to me at the next Trails Committee meeting.

Committee Reports

Northeast Chapter

- Pat Poulin – We are closing in on the Spring Ride – almost a month away.
- The Ride will be starting in the NEK, about 30 people, different states and provinces.
- March 18, 19 and 20.

Bylaws and Policy

- Jeff Fay has been working with the Newbury Border Riders to set up bylaws for them.
- They are one of the clubs having an audit done as well.

Annual Meeting

- Cindy Locke – The meeting is now going to be hosted here in Barre area by VAST.
- Bennington County cannot do it; Scott Westlake has resigned from the board.
- Looking at U32 or Spaulding High Schools.
- The date will probably be in August.
- Cindy will reach out to the clubs once the date is set to see if they want to/can help.

Long Range Planning

- Jeff Fay – We did meet; and are getting this Committee reactivated.
- We are in the process of reviewing the notes from the summit last June.
- Looking at advising some minor changes to the way the Trails Committee works; make it more functional.
- We will be meeting on March 11th.

Personnel

- Jeff Fay - Executive Session after the regular meeting tonight.

Trails

- Jeff Fay – Assignments have been given to the County Trail Coordinators.

Safety

- Pat Poulin – Have made up special signs for the clubs to put out regarding “hands on”.
- There are 200 of them available.
- Safety will be meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Governor’s Council

- Pat Poulin – We met last month; and will be meeting again next week.
- I rode in Maine recently and was shocked by the lack of signing on their trails.
- Registrations are at 18,954; they were 18,016 last year.
- 6,000 are registered in Vermont; out of state and in state, but not TMA’d.
- Law enforcement needs to write tickets not warnings.
- How much law enforcement do we have; need more, especially at night.
- VAST has more miles of corridor trails than we do have interstate.
- Dave Ladd – We have had some very, very good law enforcement with the Franklin County Sheriff’s office.
- Tony Rainville is a snowmobiler and has been riding a long time and volunteers for the club.
- He has come over twice on two Sundays and has done an extremely good job. Last Sunday he had two eluding him; one got away and got one, with some heavy fines.

Dave Ladd - Alburg Sno-Springers are hosting a drag race, March 7th, about a mile past the town of Alburg on Rte. 2. Racing will begin at about noon. See the VAST website for details.

Dick Jewett moved to go into Executive Session, with Directors, Alternate Directors, Officers and the Executive Director to discuss personnel issues; Pat Poulin seconded; motion carried.

Dick Jewett moved to come out of Executive Session; Curt Marechaux seconded; motion carried.

Curt Marechaux moved, and Pat Poulin seconded, to give the VAST staff a floating day off between January 1 and May 31; motion carried.

Roger Gosselin moved and Curt Marechaux seconded to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.