

VAST Board of Directors –December 19, 2016 – Meeting Minutes

1st Draft to be approved at the January 23, 2016 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills

Vice President: Jeff Fay

Treasurer: Absent

Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes

Bennington: Vacant

Caledonia: Ken Gammell

Chittenden: Pat Poulin

Essex: Dave Page

Franklin: Mike Burns

Grand Isle: Dave Ladd

Lamoille: Carmin Lemery

Orange: Ron Garvin

Orleans: Roger Gosselin

Rutland: Merritt Budd

Washington: Mark Reaves

Windham: Roone Gibbs

Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Stewart Ahearn, Essex County

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke

Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault

Trails Manager: Shane Prisby

Office Coordinator: Cyndy Carrier Jones

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Curt Marechaux, Michael Koehler, Danny Hale, Angel Emmons, Don Balcolm, Perry Armstrong, Hans Hussy.

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Cindy Locke, we can take the Executive Session off the Agenda.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve the Agenda with changes; Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved.

Secretary's Report: Dave Page moved to approve the Secretary's Report as presented; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Page moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

Tabled Items

Policy Insert – Disputes & Accusations

Jeff Fay - I made the changes and put it back in the hands of the club and county (see below) as the first step to solving issues; and then escalate it further up the ladder if it didn't get successfully resolved.

Section 4: Club Disputes

From time to time a dispute may arise within county or local clubs. It is suggested that the following steps be taken to resolve disputes:

- A) If a local club, contact the County President and County Director for guidance. It is highly recommended that the issue(s) attempt to be resolved within the county. If a satisfactory solution is not reached, the county director or county president shall bring the matter before the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled BOD meeting. The BOD shall decide on a further course of action.
- B) If a county club, contact the VAST Executive Director and VAST President. The issue(s) will be discussed at the next regularly scheduled board of Directors meeting. The BOD shall decide on a further course of action.
- C) If there is no county director, county president or the county club is not active - contact the VAST Executive Director and VAST President. The Board of Directors shall hear from the parties involved (club officers and club members, both current and former) and recommend a course of action.
- D) It may be necessary to involve legal authorities depending on the severity of the situation.

Dave Page moved to approve the changes made to the Policy – Club Disputes; Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved.

Vintage TMAs

Cindy Locke – we had a very productive vintage TMA meeting. We have provided you with the details of what they decided on.

Vintage TMA – Special Category

Vintage sled: 35 years old and older (1982 for 2017)

Each sled will require:

- legal registration
- liability insurance
- must comply with Vermont snowmobile statues

Up to 5 sleds per Vintage TMA:

- \$55 first sled
- \$20 each additional sled
- \$5 from each sled goes to club (donation not a membership). Clubs will be paid at the end of the season.
- All sleds must be registered to the same owner
- Copy of TMA form goes with each sled (no decal required)
- Sold only at the VAST Office.
- Not available until January 15th of current TMA year, (not available in November or December). Valid until January 14th of following year.
- Cindy reviewed the reason why the vintage tma was being brought up.
- Ron Garvin – twelve month sticker? January 15th to?
- Antiques are 25 years old, but are good for events only.
- Vintage TMAs are good for all season riding.
- It can be registered in any state.
- Jim Hill - \$5.00 fee is to be considered a donation to the club, not a club fee, does not count for voting purposes at annual meeting; it's a donation to offset trail maintenance.

Mark Reaves moved to approve the recommendation of the Vintage TMA with the changes, Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

New Business

- Introduction of Hans Hussey (new VAST Attorney) and LVRT Updates.
- During the presentation by Hans, the discussion revolved around current negotiations of the rest of the work to convert the LVRT from a rail bed.
- VAST has a lease extension until January 30, 2017. Once the Governor and the Secretary of Transportation are in office, Cindy and Hans will meet with them.
- Currently being looked at are definitions of trail conversion, future maintenance and funding from the Feds through VTrans.
- Also, Hans is currently looking into Act 250 and if there is a way for us to be able to be excused from the program in the future.

Mark Reaves, I authorize the Executive Director to sign the current extension and any further extensions' as needed to be acceptable as a Lease Agreement. Roone Gibbs seconded, so moved.

Truck Lease

- Cindy Locke noted that there is a lot of trouble getting to events, switching sled trailers. We are ramping up more with the LVRT, Matt is getting out on the trails more. Beth and Cindy both need to go to events to cover them for the magazine. In addition, our current GMC is not suitable for two VAST staff to drive due to their height. The lease options are pretty good.
- We have \$32,389 in the Capital fund for vehicles (trucks, snowmobile, Polaris ranger). We would lease a second truck now;
- Next fall we would sell the current truck and then do another lease. It's about \$5,000 /year for each truck lease.
- I have been in touch with the Finance Committee regarding all of this.
- Ron – mileage penalties?
- Cindy Locke – We average about 17,000 miles a year on one truck, but I expect that to go up to about 21,000 in the future.

- Lewis – what size truck are you looking at? 4WD, V8 – recommend 15,000 mileage.
- Roone Gibbs moved to allow the Executive Director to decide what truck to lease and when; Mark Reaves seconded, so moved.

Trail Administrator's / ED Report / LVRT Report

- Cindy Locke – We sold about 1,000 Early Birds on line; the system worked well.
- I would like to thank Merritt for all that he has done for the past 8 years serving as Director for Rutland County.
- Matt Tetreault – the trail conditions module did not go live until today; had some problems with it.
- Jeff Fay - based on what was in your report for the trail conditions update – they are going to go in every hour to update it?
- Matt Tetreault – No, the color of the trail changes is a little delayed, up to about an hour.
- Merritt Budd – what is an H pile?
- Matt Tetreault – It is instead of an I-beam; it's made to go vertical.
- Cindy Locke – We just finished all the club compliance meetings this past week. I have put out to two CPA firms a proposal to get these done, instead of hiring CPAs all other the state.

Committee Reports

- Mark Reaves noted that John Lynds is in ICU at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital.
- Dick Jewett - Governor's Council – I would like Pat to comment on the Argo issue.
- Pat Poulin – A person in Bennington registered an Argo, which is a 6 wheeled vehicle, as an ATV. DMV then sent him a letter and said they were revoking his registration unless he register it as a snowmobile and a boat. DMV states that you can only register a vehicle as one kind. It turn out that this particular vehicle, because it is a multi-surface vehicle, it can be registered as an ATV and a boat, but not a snowmobile.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.