

## **Governor's Snowmobile Council**

**December 4, 2024**

### **Present:**

Pat Poulin, Chairman  
Jacob Metayer, VSP  
Mike Mutascio, Governor Appointee  
Stan Choiniere, Governor Appointee  
Gary Nolan, VAST L/E Committee Chair  
Jim Hill, Governor Appointee

Shannon Fassett - Vermont DMV  
Jeff Halpin – Governor Appointee  
Claire Polfus – Forest Parks & Recreation  
Patty Companik – VAST President

### **VAST Staff Present:**

Mandy Dwinell, Office & Programs Manager  
Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator  
Tina Bedard, Office & Programs Assistant

The meeting was convened at 3:03 PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Jim Hill moved to approve the November minutes as presented; Stan Choiniere seconded. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Approval of SSTP Financial Report of September Matt**

**Jim Hill Moved to approve the SSTP Financial Report for October as presented; Mike Mustachio seconded. MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion on the budget for plowed parking lots and whether more lots can be added.

### **Agency Reports**

Vermont State Police (VSP), Jacob Metayer

Training with the Auxiliary Troop is being reviewed. Chief Doucette from Bennington County is trying to integrate and modify this training from NY to bring it here for seasonal training.

Safety Course Data:

79 Students passed the online safety course

2 Rosters were turned in with 15 students in total.

Discussion on the Snowmobile Online Safety Course. Jacob Metayer said he is waiting for last-minute suggestions from the safety committee. The changes as of now will be adding content and information to the VT section of the course.

Discussion on 4 or 5 people interested in being instructors. Jacob would like to set up a course for them requiring them to do in-person shadowing to learn about the course instruction.

Fish & Wildlife, Jenna Reed

Not available.

Sheriff's Association, Marc Poulin –VT Sheriff Association & Washington County Sheriff

Not available.

Police Chiefs & Southern VT Wilderness Search & Rescue, Paul Doucette

Not available.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Shannon Fassett

As of 11/30 the Registrations for 2024: 10,623 Revenue of \$275,273

As of 11/30 the Registrations for 2023: 12,576 Revenue of \$323,056

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus

RTP grants pre-application are due by the end of the week. If there are any questions about state land or trail updates Claire can provide any information needed.

**VAST**

Update

1. TMA sales

2025: 4,616

2024: 5,924

2023: 5,902

Discussion on snowmobilers riding on VAST trails before the season opens on 12/16/2024.

Law Enforcement (LE) Committee, Gary

1.FY25L/E Contract Status

All the contracts are signed and returned.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

Met last month, will be meeting next Monday. There are 2 new members. The Committee discussed revisions for the snowmobile online safety course.

It was discussed continuing education for a safety tech pilot program. A tent was set up at an event to test, and an event will be attended in May at a Ludlow/Cavendish event. They will be attending multiple types of events to try out the program.

Reminder about safety week. Stan is going to reach out to safety ambassadors and encourage them to be on the trails that week as much as possible.

**SSTP Trail Report, Matt**

No groomers allowed to groom until 12/16. The hunting season goes until 12/15.

Discussion on Mapgears releasing the app. It should go live next week. Mapgears will be making a short video as well as a 1-page cheat sheet

**2024 Vermont Snowmobile Regulations Update – Pat/Cindy**

An update has not been done yet.

**Legislative Report**

House Report

Not available.

Senate Report

Not available.

## **Appointee Reports**

### Northwest, Jim

Still a small amount of signing to do.

### Northeast, Mike

Clubs are getting ready and putting out signs.

Mike worked with landowners and a logging company along with FPR to take care of flood damage.

### Central, Jeff

Not available.

### South, Stan

There is a county meeting tonight.

Discussion on how county directors are contacted.

## **Motion to Adjourn:**

**Mike Mustachio moved to close the meeting at 3:57 pm; Stan Choiniere seconded. Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting:** The next Governor's Snowmobile Council scheduled meeting will be January 8, at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bedard

VAST Office & Programs Assistant