



Board of Directors
July 27, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Patty Companik (not present)
Vice President: Mark Reaves
Secretary: Ruth Halpin
Treasurer: Stephen Conti

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Jennifer Lucia
Bennington: Carol DeJohn
Caledonia: Bruce Carlson
Chittenden: Richard Spitzer
Essex: John Hull
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Wade Lockerby
Lamoille: Dustin Turner
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Mike Stewart
Washington: Jeff Halpin
Windham: Ivor Stevens
Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault
Media Manager: Beth Flint (not present)
Programs & Trails Manager: Mandy Dwinell
Office Manager: Tina Bedard
Finance Manager: Sheila Fenoff-Willett

GUESTS:

Stan Choiniere; Windsor County Alt. Director, Ed Hebebrand; Caledonia Alt. Director, Mike Mutascio; Essex County Alt Director, Jeff Fay; Chittenden County Alt. Director

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Vice President Mark Reaves called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Addition of a vote on the roof replacement, to be #1 in New Business.

Removal of Trails Committee- policy item, #4 in New Business.

Update the date on the agenda to reflect July 27, 2027.

Windsor County moved, Bennington County seconded, to approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Essex County moved, Windsor County Seconded, to approve the Secretary's report as presented for the June meeting. MOTION CARRIED. Windsor County moved, Lamoille County seconded, to approve the Secretary's Report as presented for the July 2nd Special Meeting. MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

Full Report sent in packet. We have 1.56 million in operating accounts, about the same as from last. Adequate amount in operating account to pay for expenses into the start of next season. Designated Reserve Accounts- 2.51 Mil. Scholarship Reserves at \$274k. YTD Revenue is #3.41m, exceeding the YTD budget of \$2.99m by \$419k. YTD membership revenue is over @ #356k budgeted. Interest earned a total of \$71k, tracking \$17k ahead of the \$53k budget. Actual expenses are \$2.66m, compared to budget of \$2.57, resulting in over budget variance of \$91k. Tracking higher than last year by @ \$198k (FY25 expenses were \$2.46m) Trails expenses YTD are \$1.83m and budget of \$1.78m, over budget variance of \$41k. Encumbered Trails Fund YTD expenses are \$528k against budget of \$578k, with under budget variance of \$50k. YTD Net income is \$750k, compared to a budgeted \$422k, resulting in a favorable variance of \$328k. We are estimating @ \$200k available for reserves at the end of the fiscal year.

Essex County moved, Windham County seconded, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. DVSJ- Landowner notification- Bridge Removal/Replacement Update - Ivor

The bridge is deconstructed and materials were brought to another site. The new bridge construction is complete; the approaches and some seeding will complete the project. The landowners are happy, the trail to be open this upcoming season.

2. GPS Pilot- 6 Clubs: Chester/Windsor, Drift Dusters/Orleans, Woodford/Bennington, Foote of the Mountain/Addison, Corinth Snow Scramblers/Orange, Smuggler's Notch/Lamoille. July 9th meeting update and next steps. Mandy, Matt, Cindy.

The July 9th meeting was held to review and gather information from the pilot clubs, and review info from the vendors. Trail Intel is the chosen Vendor. The BOD received all information in the packet and Mandy sent out an email that morning with updated information. Trail Intel provided a 3 year term, contract info in packet. Mandy asks that everyone review the information sent for a future meeting to be held for a vote and answer any questions.

3. VAST Annual Meeting- Roger

The Annual meeting will be held at The Barn at the Top of the World in Newport Center, a beautiful location. Orleans County is hosting a fundraiser after the Annual meeting, that is totally separate from the Annual meeting. Please purchase lunch tickets soon, as they need a head count.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Roof Repair- Cindy

Cindy received 2 estimates to replace the roof that were both very similar in price and reputation. It will come down to scheduling on choice of company. The cost was estimated @ \$14,500. Cindy suggested allocating more money for any unexpected findings at the time of repair. The money is to come out of the VAST Building

Reserve account. **Essex County moved, Windsor County seconded, to allow up to \$20,000 from the VAST Building Reserve Account to replace the roof at the VAST office. MOTION CARRIED**

2. VAST Due Dates Reference Guide Development- Cindy

Patty has made a comprehensive guide that is on the back of the agenda for deadlines and due dates. It is color coordinated, and categorized for Required, Conditional, Optional, Informational & Publications. Cindy to email out a PDF version so all directors can send along to their clubs.

3. 2027 Proposed Budget- Cindy

Cindy sent the budget to the BOD a few weeks back. The budget is staying close to last year, and previous years. There are a few increases with basic inflation. Trail cameras were added at the bottom at \$1,500. Parking lots added at \$1,500. \$50,000 was added to the club equipment account. Trail Special Reserves is showing how money comes in from TMA sales and then goes back out for trails projects for next year. Cindy is estimating @ \$200,000 can be added to the Reserve's accounts, Directors to vote on that in the future. \$15,000 was added into the Building Reserves Account in anticipation of painting the VAST office, and replenishing the amount taken for the roof this fall. **Essex County moved, Windsor County seconded, to approve the proposed budget to bring to the membership at The Annual Meeting. MOTION CARRIED**

4. Chainsaw Training progress update- Mandy

There have been 116 participants that completed the chainsaw safety course. Raffle items have been sent to the office and are being organized for the Annual Meeting. Darn Tough has partnered with VAST for some great prizes this year. Two people have taken the course, but did not put a club to their name, please contact Mandy if you know Cole Meader or David Nelson.

TRAIL ADMINISTRATORS, PROGRAM & TRAILS MANAGER & ED REPORTS- Mandy/Cindy/Matt
Full Reports sent in the packet. Some of these items were covered earlier in meeting.

Committee Reports- questions/discussions

Reports to be sent out via email to the BOD soon, in the absence of Patty.

Windsor County moved, Lamoille seconded to adjourn meeting at 6:41 MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Halpin, Secretary.