

VAST Board of Directors – December 18, 2017 – Meeting Minutes

Approved at the January 22, 2017 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Treasurer: Absent
Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Stewart Ahearn, Essex County; Carmin Lemery, Lamoille 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: Ed Hebebrand, Star Poulin, Mark Ellingwood, Angel Emmons, Ivor Stevens, Windham County President; Hunter Mills.

Meeting called to order at 6:08 PM

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Dick Jewett seconded, so moved.

Secretary's Report: Dick Jewett moved to approve; Dave Page seconded, so moved.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy noted that there is nothing in particular to be noted.
No Report presented as Sonia Koehler, Treasurer, was not present.

Tabled Items

VSTC

Pat Poulin moved to remove the item from the table, Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.

- Mark Ellingwood - Treasurer of VSTC. Everyone knows how difficult it is to hold on to our trails.
- We started the Conservancy a number of years ago and it's really moving forward now. We are also dealing with the Vermont Land Trust and large quantities of land being purchased. We are trying to increase our funds so we can enter into these agreements and help pay for the process of getting easements from landowners.
- Jim Hill – A donated easement is not a free easement. There are legal issues, the costs run about \$3,000-\$5,000. The request is that the board would consider up to \$2.00 per TMA be donated to the VSTC. It would happen at the end of the year, after the sales have been tallied. If the budget didn't make it, then the VSTC would not get anything.
- Cindy Locke – We provide them with a map and the trail has been GPS'd already. We have controlled the costs as much as we can. We hire a local attorney to do the title searches.

Dick Jewett made a motion to have up to \$2.00 per TMA allotted to the VSTC, if there is money at the end of each year, to be voted on at the end of the season. Mark Reaves seconded, so moved.

Chittenden County – abstain.

16-17 Grooming Cost Analysis

Dave Page moved to remove this item from the table; Mark Reaves seconded, so moved.

Mark Reaves moved to retable the item; Dave Page seconded, so moved.

Consent Calendar

New Business

Cindy Locke - Update for On Line TMAs – EB's are at 259 more than last year.

EB In-State – 775

EB Out of state – 466

Family In-State – 97

Family Out of State – 21

Old Business

LVRT Status Update

- Cindy Locke – I went to Ted Brady who is the Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development about federal grants. Ted called Washington to see how they might be able to help out. He found out that for the Northern Borders grants, we are not allowed to use that to draw down the VTrans money.

- Ken Brown – I met with VTrans and if we do 1C over a two year period, how do we do it?
- \$1.6 – 1.9 million – cost of 1C.
- Could do the majority of the trail and then stop at the bridge, etc.

Trail Admin / ED / LVRT

- Cindy Locke - VORAC – I was appointed to this committee by the Governor. We looked at all the information from all the meetings and the Governor is reviewing all this information. Will make some recommendations on outdoor recreation. Want to choose 3 projects around the state that they thought the Governor should look at, the LVRT was one; the second was ATVs in Island Pond, and the other was in the Bellows Falls area.
- Dick Jewett – Were those three given any priorities? No, and the Governor will finalize his picks.
- Northern Forest Symposium Committee – VT / NH / NY / ME – Cindy was asked to be on the planning committee. Cindy is the only snowmobiler on the committee. This year they are talking about outdoor recreation.
- Pat and I went to FP&R meeting in Essex, with Commissioner Snyder and his team. Most of it was the working forest, but because we share in loggings areas, etc. we thought we should attend it. They are rewriting the water quality practices.
- VT Trails and Greenways – We are looking at putting together something to help promote the idea that all recreational trails should not fall under act 250.
- Matt Tetreault – Please look at the trails closure list and let me know if any issues.
- Camels Hump issue – Increases the size of the parking lot and local people are not liking it.
- Ken Brown – We are manning the trails app in house now, can update it every week now.

Committee Reports

Annual Meeting – Would Franklin and Grand Isle county consider doing the annual meeting together?

- Matt – One item we are looking at is debrushing. Excavators are using a debrushing head to do the trails now. \$65.00/hour is the maximum we pay. An excavator with a brush head costs more. It is very efficient and does a great job.

Safety Committee

- Road names at crossings. Look at it more in the next few months.
- Our new stop signs have a space where they can put the road name in.
- Pat – we talked about the stop signs. E-911 and road crossings.
- Have plenty of new safety course books.

Governor's Council

- Dick Jewett – The Southern VT Task Force revolves around the Woodford area, but it should include Windsor and Windham counties also. We will be looking into this.
- Curt Marechaux – We were asked to host the groomer rodeo. We don't really have a place to do it. Any suggestions on where we could do it.

The next meeting is January 22nd.

Reminder of State House Day, January 3rd.

Milo Day made a motion to adjourn, Ron Garvin, seconded, so moved.

Adjourned at 7:25 pm.