

VAST Board of Directors – January 23, 2017 – Final Meeting Minutes

Approved at the February 27, 2017 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Treasurer: Tom Baltrus (via phone)
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: Curt Marechaux
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Roone Gibbs
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Stewart Ahearn, Essex County; Julianne Sherman, Orange County; Doug Jacobs, Windsor County

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
Trails Manager: Shane Prisby
Office Coordinator: Cyndy Carrier Jones

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Ben Robinson, Mike O'Hara, Caledonia County Snowmobile Club, Ross Page, Bayley Hazen Snow. Club, Hans Huessy, Attorney for VAST/LVRT, Ed Larson, VAST Lobbyist.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Lewis Barnes moved to approve the agenda; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved, with amendments.

Secretary's Report: Pat Poulin moved to approve the Secretary's report; Richard Jewett seconded, with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Baltrus gave an overview of the financials for the period ended December 2016 via the conference phone.

Dave Page moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.

New Business - Trail Project 15-ET 12

- Mike O'Hara from the Caledonia County Snowmobile Trail Club gave an overview of the project(s) in question and the timeline related to it.
- There was considerable discussion regarding this issue around the table.
- Roger Gosselin - So, anytime a club does a project without landowner permission, the club is taking a gamble on whether it will work out or not. I don't feel comfortable with VAST voting on spending money on a trail that we don't have permission to be on.
- Cindy Locke – My suggestion is to table this and go through the grievance policy. There is a policy and process to follow. The downfall of this is that it sets a precedent going forward.
- Roger Gosselin – If a Resource Committee gets set up to review this, they can research this more and sit down with you and figure out what to do.
- Tim Mills – Mike, do your part to get the landowner permission, then we'll wait for you to communicate with Matt.

LVRT Line of Credit

- Cindy Locke – The Line of Credit came due again and Jim Hill and Tim Mills signed this tonight.

LVRT Assistant

- Cindy Locke – She noted that Don Balcom, the Capital Campaign manager, needs some assistance with his work; database entry, etc. This would be a temporary position, part time, no benefits, to help him to launch the capital campaign. The cost would be about \$20,000 and this comes out of the capital campaign budget.
- Ted Chase has rejoined the LVRTC; glad he is back; he is also on the Friends. Ted knows a lot about the trail; he is invested with the trail; he can be a big help to Don Balcom with the Capital Campaign also.

Old Business

Hans Huessy – We met with the State about the lease and with their attorney and had a great discussion and they made some proposed language changes and I drafted something up that I thought reflected what they had asked for. They then switched attorneys, and that attorney is no longer in that department and the new attorney didn't like any of the proposed changes. I asked him to meet with the prior attorney and myself and have the same discussion to see if we can make some progress. He said they lost 3 attorneys out of the department and they can't do anything until February. So, we need to sign a one month extension of the lease until we can meet again.

On the Act 250 front, in terms of an update, we sent a proposed engagement letter to Cindy. It is about how the firm would go forward with that representation.

A discussion about Act 250 ensued, but no motions were needed.

Tim Mills – Are you looking for anything from the Board?

Cindy Locke – I think we need to agree what we are going to do with his proposal for payment and once you have agreed on it, then he can get started with drafting something for the Surface Transportation Board and show it to the state.

Mark Reaves made a motion to approve the agreement with Hans Huessy for him to receive zero money if we lose the Act 250 argument, and 2.5 times his rate of pay if we win, not to exceed 50% of our Act 250 budget, or the lower of the two. Dave Page seconded, so moved.

Hans Huessy – I would make one other recommendation. I think it would be a good idea to appoint two or three members of the Board, along with Cindy Locke, that I can communicate with and keep you abreast.

New Business

Cindy Locke – I need to have a motion to approve Ted Chase coming back to the LVRTC. Dave Page moved to approve; Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

TMA / Early Bird Count

- Cindy Locke – Going forward I will be giving you a report on the TMAs on the date of the meeting so you will be up to date and I can send this report to you on a weekly basis.
- As of today, 14,751 EB's in, versus 14,082, ahead by 680 something.
- We still need \$1.786 million. Lots of phone calls for people wanting to come here to snowmobile in the past few weeks. We are still on track; but we need snow to help with the regular season.
- Some clubs did really well. There was a jump in the amount of people that registered in VT this year; and we see that revenue coming back to us in our trails fund in the SSTP budget.

Trail Administrator's / ED Report / LVRTC Report

Mark Reaves made a motion to change the name of the Grievance Process to the Appeals Process; Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

Committee Reports

Jeff Fay - By Laws, minor change to the policy wording.

PR & Marketing

Carmin Lemery - We are meeting every month regarding the annual meeting.

Military Ride – we do need 30 volunteers – have a definite 10. The date is February 18th – Oxbow Park Morrisville.

We had a booth at the Yankee Sportsman Classic event in Essex on January 21 and 22. Interacted with a lot of people; told them we still have riding in the NEK.

Governor's Council

Dick Jewett - nothing in particular. Good meeting – upbeat – registrations are up.

Miscellaneous

Carmin Lemery – Is the trails committee meeting on a monthly basis?

Matt Tetreault - no, we meet quarterly. We were hoping to do a ride/meeting in January, but don't think we'll be able to unless the snow conditions change.

Ron Garvin – what are we saying now about the trail conditions?

Matt Tetreault - we are trying to do an update; some clubs were not showing in the trails module. We have asked them to stop wiping it clean on Monday. We have had some issues but we are working on it.

Shane – a lot of clubs have contacted us about issues with us. Once we get the update through, we'll send it out to the clubs and have them check for additional issues and get them engaged again.

Snow Trails Conservancy

Jim Hill – the Snow Trails Conservancy is ready to present the VSTC to county clubs at meetings. Please contact us to set that up with your county.

Cindy Locke – we have a CPA firm lined up to help clubs. Some clubs want to be 501 C3, they are C7's now. VAST is covering the cost for the club so they can become compliant, but not to change their status; the Board agreed.

Ken Gammell moved to go into Executive Session, Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved. Executive Session to include Directors, Alternate Directors, Officers and the Executive Director, to discuss personal issues.

Mark Reaves moved and Dave Page seconded to come out of executive session at 8:20 pm; motion passed.

Roger Gosselin moved and Mark Reaves seconded to bestow Joe Cicia with a lifetime membership. Motion failed with 0 yes and 10 no and 3 abstentions.

Curt Marechaux moved to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Meeting adjourned.