

VAST Board of Directors - November 27, 2017 – Meeting Minutes

Approved at the December 18, 2017 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Treasurer: Sonia Koehler
Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Stewart Ahearn, Essex County; Doug Jacobs, Windsor County; Merritt Budd, Rutland County; Carmin Lemery, Lamoille County.

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
Trails Manager: Ken Brown
Office Coordinator: Cyndy Carrier Brown
Media Manager: Beth Godin

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Angel Emmons.

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Lewis Barnes moved to approve, as amended; Curt Marechaux seconded, so moved.

New Business

Cindy Locke noted that the following items will be added to the agenda, under new business.

- E. Update on the holiday dinner
- F. County meetings
- G. Lifetime Award
- Pat Poulin also added to the agenda regarding honorary clubs.

Secretary's Report – Dick Jewett moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, so moved.

Treasurer's Report

- Sonia Koehler gave a brief overview of the financials as of October 31, 2017.
- There have been 283 on line tmas sold so far.
- We moved the H-Beams to its own separate account and it will not impact the balance in the General Fund or the Trails Fund.

Ron Garvin moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved.

Tabled Items

VSTC Proposal for Funding

- Roger Gosselin moved to remove this item from the table; Stewart Ahearn seconded, so moved.
- After a brief discussion it was voted to retable this item. Pat Poulin moved and Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

2016-2017 Grooming Cost Analysis

- Roger Gosselin moved to remove this item from the table; Pat Poulin seconded, so moved.
- After a brief discussion it was voted to retable this item. Roger Gosselin moved and Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved.

New Business

- Cindy Locke noted that we have a presentation about Veterans and snowmobiling.
- Jason and Teresa March from Bradford, Vermont are starting a non-profit business called Operation Veteran Off-Road, to enable disabled veterans and their families to ride snowmobiles and ATVs.
- They are both retired combat veterans; they work with the Veterans Administration.
- Free snowmobile and ATV rides. Take older sleds, redo them to meet the needs of veterans.
- Met with Kirk from the Newbury Border Riders. Looking for a partnership with VAST. Running 6 sleds this winter.
- Would like 6 trail passes. Third party vendor with the VA – therapy for the veterans. This will be for all veterans in the Northeast. It's a volunteer – non-profit business. Veterans will come and fix machines, etc. We are also looking for sleds, we need 3 more. They do not charge for their services.
- Strict screening process before anyone comes into the program. Graphic designer that is working on website, and informational pieces.
- VAST hosts a military ride. This is a ride in, not a "ride". We think it would be a good thing to have your sleds at the military ride for people to see and know about your program.
- Pat Poulin moved to donate 6 tmas to this program; Curt Marechaux seconded, so moved.
- General discussion that we should have a Committee for this; Pat Poulin and Curt Marechaux want to be involved in this. Noted that there is already a Safety Committee and PR&M Committee.
- Jeff Fay – Is there a trail near where you run the sleds out of? If not, let's see if they can get direct access to the trail.

Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics

Cindy Locke noted that this paperwork needs to be signed and turned in to her tonight.

Our Trail Map System

- Cindy Locke – We are going to do a presentation on what our Map App is capable of doing.
- Beth Godin did a presentation of the trails app:
- We have different layers we can put on the map, snow depth, intersection numbers, route numbers, water crossings, trails open, caution and closed, parking areas, club locations and information, plus many other options, stores, hotels, gas, etc.
- For the basic business listing there is no charge; it lists the name and phone number
- Expanded business listing are paid for and they give all information on a business/hotel, etc.
- We update information continually on the map app
- We are implementing a Snow Phone this year where they can leave a message and we will then take that data and update information.
- Jeff Fay – Could we change the intersections to like, OS-3, 7S, 7E, 7W, etc.
- Roger Gosselin – Does Mohawk have a replacement?
- Cindy Locke - We are looking for a competent host to pass the information over to.
- Roger Gosselin – What about the actual mapping?
- Cindy Locke – The mapping is a just a shape file that we can export.

Hans Bill - Act 250

- Cindy Locke – We won the Act 250 battle! We are being asked to pay for Hans' time. There is a bill in front of you; they are looking to donate to the LVRT too in the future, at around \$10,000-\$15,000.
- Roger Gosselin – What line item is this coming out of on the budget?
- Carmin Lemery – On the LVRT budget we have a line item for legal.
- Cindy Locke – We would be loaning the LVRT the money.
- Mark Reaves – 2.5 multiplier is 2.5 times his hourly rate.
- Cindy Locke – I will request a final document now that it is over.
- This is not the final bill, this is a draft.
- Jeff Fay – Let's get the final bill and we will move on that.
- Cindy Locke – Could we entertain a motion so that the money could be made before Dec. 18th?
- Jeff Fay – minus the donation?
- Dick Jewett – From their standpoint - \$91,000.

Mark Reaves – Motion to lend the LVRT the money to cover the legal fees of MSK upon receipt of the final bill for the Act 250 work; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.

- Ken Gammel – Pay the bill, it's cheap. That's nothing compared to the \$10 million.

Holiday Dinner

- Cindy Locke – The Holiday Dinner is 5:15 on December 18th. The meeting got changed because of Christmas.

County Meetings

- Cindy Locke – We are holding on Saturday, December 2nd, county meetings for Windham and Bennington, looking for people interested in being County Directors. Any directors that would like to join us would be very welcome. It's being held at the Raven's Den – 10:00 AM, Windham – Grafton at 2:00 at the Elementary School.
- Right now we have one person that has stepped up from Bennington. Mike _____.
- We have 3 people interested from Windham county. We will talk to them about the other positions as well; alternate director, county president, trail coordinator, etc.
- We do have video conferencing available now, so that would make it easier if someone can't travel.
- We will describe to them what the position entails, Roberts Rules, etc.

Lifetime Membership Award

Curt Marechaux awarded the Lifetime Membership Award to Merrit Budd.

Honorary Clubs

- Pat Poulin – Chittenden County has had two clubs in the last two years that have pretty much folded.
- For the Green Mountain Sno-Cats it's basically been one person running the club for the last few years, but he just isn't able to do it any longer. We thought because it was one of the first clubs that it should stay on the books.
- I'd like to give Honorary Status to the Green Mountain Sno-Cats. That would allow them to remain a club; they don't sell TMAs, they have one vote at the annual meeting. And if at some point they can get 25 members again, they can become a full-fledged club again.
- The Arrowhead club lost all of their trails two years ago, wiped out by development.

Mark Reaves moved to approve; Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

- Curt Marechaux – Pawlet Bushwackers folded last year too.
- Dick Jewett - We had one that almost folded and they are now up and running again, the Hurricane Riders.
- Pat Poulin – Matt Tetreault noted that the Essex club had a closure in Jericho on Corridor 2; we may be broken from getting east out of Chittenden county. The Richmond to Bolton trail is a black diamond trail; it has always been very tough to groom. We are probably going to lose it.

Old Business

- LVRT Status – Ken Brown – We are inviting contractors out to see 1C. We wanted them to see it before it got covered with snow.
- The bids for 1C will go out in January.
- We have draft plans from VHB and are making changes to that.

VHB

- Ken Brown - Small maintenance issues that will have to wait until spring?
- Mike Burns - Swanton to Morrisville will be open for snowmobiles this season.
- Do first phase of construction – rough finish, bridges and culverts after 1C is done.
- Cindy Locke – I need to check with VTrans because we are still using federal Bike Ped money.

- Cindy – as far as funding goes, I have met with the heads of the Agency of Commerce & Community Development regarding federal economic development grants to coincide with the recreation grants that we are getting through VTrans to open up different opportunities.
- Next meeting is with VTrans and community economic development for different ideas on different federal grants that we could get to draw down on the portion of the VTrans loan.
- Next week doing a presentation to the Lamoille and Franklin county and part of Orleans county for all of the local and regional development corporations. They have their own economic task forces. They have a grant process too. I am hosting them in Morrisville and doing a presentation on the LVRT. They can also draw down on other federal grants up to \$1 million funding.
- The secretary and commissioner of economic development is very interested in the LVRT.

Trails Admin / ED / LVRT

- Matt Tetreault – There is a lot of forest service work being done, bridges, water bars, etc.; mostly in the southern part, South Mountain; some in northern part, Swans Mill, Glastenbury, Chittenden area, Blood Root trail, Ridge Trail in Middlebury.
- H-piles moved to Groton – Grizzly Mountain Trucking can move them to the clubs for a fee of \$100/hr.
- Matt will be sending out agreements for the H-beams to the clubs so we can keep track of where they are going.
- Grooming contracts were sent out the first of November.
- Emergency jobs are coming.
- Printed maps should be here very soon – probably this week.
- Merritt Budd asked if VAST was going to allocate so many h-beams to each county or how does it work
- Mark Reaves – How did the PA show go?
- Cindy Locke – We think it went very well. It's a small version of the NY show, but worth doing again.
- PA riders will drive to Michigan to ride. We have a group coming here from PA.

Committee Reports

ByLaws – Jeff Fay – We are going to probably have a policy re write for the January meeting.

Annual Meeting – Mike Burns – We have a meeting tomorrow, looking at two places for the meeting.

PR&M – Carmin Lemery – We would like the directors to go back to the counties. If they have anyone that is looking to do fundraising, we would be happy to have them participate at the Military Ride. It is the second Saturday in February every year.

Safety – Pat Poulin – We met and reviewed the new version of the manual.

Governor's Council – Dick Jewett gave DMV registration numbers thus far for a few states. Total registrations right now are 9, 970 and revenue is \$257,854.

Last year law enforcement budget was \$97,500, this year it is \$102,500.

Next meeting is December 18th.

Cindy Locke – Thank you Roger for printing the old tma stickers and the new 50th stickers.

Ron Garvin moved to adjourn; Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved.

Adjourned at 8:10 PM.