

VAST Board of Directors – August 27, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

1st Draft to be approved at the October 22, 2018 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Mike Viggiano
Caledonia: Ken Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn – via phone
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Vacant
Lamoille: Ellis O’Hear
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Merritt Budd - Alternate
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Ivor Stevens - Alternate
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Merritt Budd, Rutland County; Ivor Stevens, Windham County.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Kyle Daley and Richard Poulin, Canaan Border Riders; Angel Emmons, Jason Luneau, Smuggler’s Notch Snowmobile Club; Ed Hebebrand.

Meeting called to order at 6:07

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Roger Gosselin moved to approve; Lewis Barnes seconded, motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Dick Jewett moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Sonia Koehler gave a brief overview of the financials as of July 31, 2018. Roger Gosselin moved to approve; Mark Reaves seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

LVRT Update and Status

- Ken Brown – A portion of 1c went out to bid on Friday; the bid opening is on Sept. 18 to see where we are price wise.
- The deadline to finish the work is early summer 2019.
- After 1C is done, we will move from Sheldon to Cambridge and then continue on from Morrisville to Wolcott (this will probably take 14 years at the current rate we are going).
- Discussion about where monies are coming from, how much money, timing to finish, bridges/materials
- Cindy Locke – We just got an anonymous donation of \$25,000. We will put that with the \$75,000 from the state to use as a match.
- Roger Gosselin – 1C includes bridge 93, includes the big washout?
- Yes.

New Business

Canaan Border Riders

- Cindy Locke gave a recap of the issue at hand with the club.
- Kyle Daley is the current president of the club; Richard Poulin is the trail coordinator for the club.
- Mark Reaves, Lewis Barnes, Merritt Budd were on the Resource committee that reviewed the issue.
- Tim Mills – What is the current status of your trail signs and do they meet our guidelines?
- Cindy Locke – I would like to add one issue; this club is in a very high traffic area. One concern I have is Trail 96.

- We are promoting our trails to non-residents and the signs need to be correct in directing riders.
- Kyle Daley explained to the Board reasons why the trails were not signed; lack of volunteers, lack of communication, etc. The signs are now up and hopefully meets with VAST approval. Trail 96 will be completely signed for this coming winter.

Commerce Trail

- Cindy Locke – I have talked to Richard and Kyle about this. I met with Commissioner Porter and VASA.
- We have some clubs that are interested in letting ATVs on their trails also.
- The club would have to be a club through VASA as well as VAST or the club(s) would not be covered by VAST or VASA's insurance.
- Multi Use Committee – We need some statutory changes before we make decisions on this.
- Matt and I got notice that NH has changed their laws on the Commerce trail. NH has changed it that you cannot ride from VT into NH if you don't have a VAST TAO sticker.

Equipment Grant Loan

Mad River Ridge Runners / Mt. Holly Snow Flyers

- Matt Tetreault – This loan program is in place so that a club can obtain a loan for equipment.
- VAST is in 2nd position behind the bank
- Mad River Ridge Runners is looking for \$60,420.
- Mt. Holly Snow Flyers are looking for \$53,000.
- The Northwest Riders were a past guarantor; their loan has been paid off.
- Derry Sled Dogs, Tri Town Trail Travelers and Mountain Tamers – in the process of paying their loans off.

Dick Jewett moved to approve the loan for \$60,420 to the Mad River Ridge Runners; Roger Gosselin seconded; motion carried.

- There was discussion about VAST and club policy bylaws / liquidation of equipment if the Club fails on the loan.
- We are not co-signing on the loan, we are a guarantor on the loan.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve the loan for \$53,000 to the Mt. Holly Snow Flyers; Lewis Barnes seconded; motion carried.

Executive Directors Report

- Cindy Locke – We had a meeting in Island Pond last week about Act 250. It was the largest gathering of an Act 250 meeting.
- The meetings are not run well. They wanted us to prioritize out of the 8 categories given to us, i.e.; clean water, scenic, environmental, etc. We (outdoor recreation) did not even have our own category; we were placed under agriculture and forestry.
- They didn't allow questions.
- Disappointed with the meeting.
- This is not just about VAST, but also VASA, VMBA, Trails & Greenways, etc.

Committee Reports

Northeast Chapter - Pat Poulin – NY has resigned from ACSA.

Annual Meeting – Mike Burns – All is going well, still need volunteers.

Cindy Locke met with the club and the meeting place – need some changes about where things are, but it looks like it will work very well.

Lewis Barnes moved to adjourn; Dick Jewett seconded; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.