

VAST Board of Directors – November 19, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

1st Draft to be approved at the December 17, 2018 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Scott Westlake
Caledonia: Ken Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd
Lamoille: Ellis O’Hear
Orange: Absent
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Curt Marechaux, via phone
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Ivor Stevens, Alternate
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Merritt Budd, Rutland County; Doug Jacobs, Windsor County; Star Poulin, Chittenden County.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Joanne Gammell.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Recognition of Visitors:

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

Secretary’s Report: Roger Gosselin moved to approve the Secretary’s report; Dave Ladd seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Sonia Koehler gave a brief overview of the financials and TMA sales to date.

- TMAs have been sent out to all the clubs. On Line TMAs to date are 312; 192 are in state and 85 out of state.

- The Finance Committee is reviewing a proposal to move the scholarship savings into some kind of investment portfolio to help it grow.

Lewis Barnes moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

LVRT Status

- Ken Brown – The contactor is working on 1C in Highgate and are planning to finish it up in the next week or so.
- Washout in Sheldon – hoping to work on that also. Plan to work on the bridge over the winter also.
- Ditching will happen in the spring.
- Cindy Locke – We have another town (Cambridge) wanting to help out on the trail to expand the trail North of Bridge 68.

Act 250 Update

- Cindy Locke – We are actively meeting with the conservation organizations and the state.
- We are proposing to stay out of the large Act 250 bill.
- There will probably be some sort of state oversight on trails.
- They are trying to curtail the over-development of new trails.
- Lewis Barnes – Question about the letter we received regarding throwing up of class town roads.
- Cindy Locke – There is incentive for towns to keep them open; federal funding available for culverts, etc.

New Business

USA Membership and Donation

- Pat Poulin – November 8 and 9 – United Snowmobile Alliance is up and running.
- The bylaws have been approved; officers have been elected.
- Press release was sent out to lots of people.
- Membership Fee is \$500/year; we were paying \$5,000 for ACSA.
- We have had a \$2,500 donation from an anonymous donor. I would like to have this board approve a
- \$1,500 donation to this organization.
- Many states are on board already – VT, NH, ME, CO, ID, MA, NY, PA, CA, NV.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve the \$1,500 donation; Dave Ladd seconded, motion carried.

Volunteer TMA question

- Curt Marechaux – Would VAST be willing to set up a volunteer TMA program for county representatives?
- Pat Poulin – This has been brought up before. But what happens is it benefits those of us who are sitting around this table and its questionable.
- Dave Ladd – The Volunteer program itself is pretty generous, but I come from a small county/club.
- Pat Poulin – I would suggest taking this back to the county and discuss it.
- Jeff Fay – Let the membership decide at the annual meeting whether or not to offer a voluntary TMA to each county director.
- Roger Gosselin – I would like some guidance / policy for giving out voluntary tmAs.
Pat Poulin said he would send Roger what he has for information.

Events Approval

- Cindy Locke – I believe Lamoille county will be doing the Military Appreciation event this year, but we don't have the application yet.
- We do have Safety Day – Orange County which is running within Safety Week – Jan. 19th – 27th.

Mark Reaves moved to approve a budget of not more than \$500 for the Safety Day event; Stewart Ahearn seconded; motion carried.

VAST Safety Ambassador Program

- We have 27 people signed up for training. They would ride in their area, help with trail directions, accidents, signs down or missing, tree down.
- We have tool kits for them, first aid kits, safety vests. They will get a volunteer TMA.
- Once they have completed the workshop on December 15th, they will have a log book to keep.
- They will get a manual on being an ambassador.

ED Report

- Cindy Locke – Snowmobile trailer was fixed - \$720.
- CPA – We sent an RFP out to more CPA firms. Batchelder & Associates from the Barre area is one with a good proposal.
- In a couple of weeks we will have a new CPA firm.
- TMAs have been sent to all the clubs and are selling them on line as well.
- To date we have sold 312 TMAs online; 192 of these are EB in state and 85 EB out of state, and the others are Family TMAs.
- Northern Forest Outdoor Recreational Symposium was held in NH, and at this meeting I learned of two different organizations that do grants, one will help with replacing culverts and bridges and the other is opening up trails.

Multi Use Committee

- Roger Gosselin – We had a meeting Nov. 1st. Will have minutes for the December meeting.
- Very good meeting. Adding legislation to do a pilot program.

Trails Committee

- Jeff Fay – We have a meeting on December 10th.

Governor's Council

- Pat Poulin - Law enforcement contract has gone out.

Miscellaneous

- Merritt Budd – B.E.S.T. /Proctor clubs were going to merge, but now it is on hold.
- Club membership is dwindling in both clubs.
- There is a meeting on November 29th to figure this out.

Next meeting is December 17th – Holiday meal at 5:30 PM.

Roger Gosselin moved to adjourn; Dick Jewett seconded, motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:15 PM