

VAST Board of Directors – January 22, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

1st Draft to be approved at the February 26, 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: 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; Doug Jacobs, Windsor County; Merritt Budd, Rutland County.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Angel Emmons, Danny Hale, Chair of the LVRT; Ed Hebebrand, Conrad Stewart.

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, so moved.

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

Treasurer’s Report:

- Sonia Koehler reported that VAST is down about 200 for TMA sales as of today compared to last year.
- We are still missing some Early Birds from clubs.
- Grooming payments will be sent out Feb. 1st.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.

Consent Calendar

Tabled Items

16-17 Grooming Cost Analysis

- Dave Page moved to take this item off the table; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.
- Matt Tetreault – Jeff Fay and I met and went over numbers last week. We will have a report next month for the board.
- We have a recommendation that we will change up the financial analysis a bit that we get from the clubs.
- Want to streamline the information on the form to get more accurate information.

Pat Poulin moved to put this item back on the table; Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

New Business

Windsor County Ride

- Cindy Locke – The ride is Thursday, Feb. 15th.
- There will be hors d'oeuvres in the afternoon of the 14th.
- Wednesday evening we will stay at the Stone Hearth Inn.
- Windsor Clubs will give us a tour of the county and lunch is included.

Old Business

LVRT Status Update

- Cindy Locke - We have about \$80,000 left in the capital campaign.
- The washout and the bridge in Sheldon are the only two things holding us from using it for snowmobiles, but there is a reroute around the bridge.
- Cindy Locke brought the Board up to speed on the funding for the LVRT. A discussion ensued about the need for other trail users and supporters to come forward to help to fund the remainder of the trail development, since this is a State resource. Cindy reminded the Board that VAST is obligated to see the trail finished and maintained, but there is no timeline for this to be done. The Board felt that Cindy should continue to explore other options, working with the State of Vermont to find a funding solution since VAST has already expended an extraordinary amount of money on this project, and as only a single user of the trail when there are many others that benefit from it. Cindy continues to meet with the State of Vermont and others to help VAST find a solution to finishing the LVRT.
- Kenny is concerned that as the LVRT is "Rail-Banked", the LVRT right-of-way is not subject to any sort of oversight or permitting. Hans spoke to the point by saying that it was more complicated than that and he had read and researched the rail bank program, and it was not completely exempt, but was exempt from permitting like ACT 250 that have to do with development, but not necessarily exempt from environmental permitting.
- Ken Brown also stated that some permitting was necessary as it is required by the Federal Highway money used for the 80% funding. Cindy will ask Hans to come to an upcoming meeting in person to discuss his research and findings in more detail.

Dave Page made a motion to hold off on 1C; Ken Gammell seconded, so moved.

Trail Admin / ED / LVRT

All is okay.

Committee Reports

- LVRT – Danny Hale – I think it's a good idea for VAST to step back on 1C.
- By Laws – Jeff Fay - Policy item on next month's agenda.
- PR& Marketing – They held a meeting; mostly about the military ride; all is good.
- Governor's Council – Dick Jewett – Had our monthly meeting; all is good.

The next meeting will be February 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.