

VAST Board of Directors – July 23, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

Approved at the August 27, 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: Ben Robinson, Alternate
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Vacant
Lamoille: Carmin Lemery, Alternate
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosselin via phone
Rutland: Curt Marechaux
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Drew Fraser
Windsor: Dick Jewett

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Angel Emmons, Ross Page

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Curt Marechaux moved to approve; Dick Jewett seconded, motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sonia Koehler gave a brief overview of the financials for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.

General discussion regarding the TMA sales for 2017 – 18.

Mark Reaves moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

LVRT Status

- We are moving forward with 1C in Hardwick.
- Jeff Fay – Is anything out to bid yet?
- Cindy Locke – They have finalized the package; we have chosen the resident engineer.
- Ken Brown - Bridge 68 is done – It should be officially closed out in the next few weeks.
- We have been doing some mowing. For the most part the towns and volunteers are taking care of it.

New Business

VAST 2019 Budget

- Cindy Locke – A line item for grants to come in and then a grant expense line has been added, but no money was put into it. It is just a place holder.
- The budget is built on the end of the year projections for this year with the exception of a few things.
- Lobbyist – He used to be part time, just during the legislative session. But, they are having more and more summer meetings, so we decided to bring him back full time. Half of his full time pay will now come out of the general fund and the other half out of SSTS as it always has.
- Trail Fund – Grooming – increase of about \$104,000 over what we spent last year.
- We are making the same amount of money from TMAs now as we did 17 years ago (just a note).

Mark Reaves moved to approve the General Fund and Trails Fund Budgets; Carmin Lemery seconded, motion carried.

Emergency Reserve Recommendations

- Cindy Locke – We are proposing that the money that is left over from this year, \$145,409 be moved into reserves.
- The Finance Committee is proposing that we take \$50,000 from Emergency Reserves and move it into the Equipment Grant money, so that Matt can do additional funding. In October we would then move \$60,000 back into that account, bringing it back up to \$64,000.

Mark Reaves made a motion to take \$50,000 out of the Emergency Fund Reserve Account and put it into Equipment Grants FY18 to help some additional clubs out and then in September the BOD will vote to put money back into that reserve account based on how we end the year, Curt Marechaux seconded, motion carried.

Canaan Border Riders Update

- Cindy Locke – I sent the letter out to them requesting that they attend this meeting, but Kyle was not able to make this meeting; he will plan to be here for the August meeting.
- Roger Gosselin - Has the club fixed all their signs and junctions? If not, we should let them know before they come to the meeting in August.
- Stewart Ahearn – I haven't had a county meeting, but will soon. I will let them know that I will personally be riding around this winter and checking signs, for all clubs in my county. This has been an ongoing problem for many years with this club.
- Cindy Locke will email Kyle regarding the meeting next month.

GIS of Trails

- Cindy Locke – Some clubs are having difficulty finding the time to get this done before the trails open next winter.
- Considerable discussion about GIS/GPS – what clubs needs to do, timeline.
- GIS is Geographic Information System, the software that you use; and GPS is Global Positioning System.
- Lewis Barnes recommends to wait until Spring 2019 to have this completed.
- Ken Brown has been working with the clubs to review the differences and make the necessary changes.
- VAST will let clubs know about the extension.

Trail Policy Manual Update

- Matt Tetreault – We are trying to allow the purchase of brush bars as part of the Debrushing program.
- We also have added in a category for the Limbers / brush heads on an excavator.
- Jeff Fay – As per the bylaws we brought in the commercial TMA reimbursement section out of the bylaws and and it's also in the the Trails Policy manual.
- If a club purchases a cutting bar, that would be in lieu of all of your debrushing money; they would not get any debrushing money for two years.
- Matt Tetreault – Everyone usually gets back a certain percentage.
- Trails Committee was okay with it.

Pat Poulin moved to approve the Trail Policy Manual update recommended by the Trails Administrator; Carmin Lemery seconded, motion carried.

Equipment Grant Loan – Mad River Ridge Runners

- Matt Tetreault – They have not submitted all of their loan documents yet, so we can't do anything right now.
- They are purchasing a 2007 Pisten Bully Edge for \$54,000; buying out one of Doug Wilson's groomer.

County Loops for the Traveler's Guide

- Cindy Locke – Find someone in your county to do a featured loop for us to add to the Traveler's Guide.

Committee Reports

NEC – Pat Poulin – The chapter has officially moved away from ACSA and are establishing a new national organization – no name yet.

Multi Use Trails – Roger Gosselin – We will be sending out an email to have another meeting to talk about the survey for multi-use trails.

Awards & Nominations – Tim Mills noted that Patty Companik is doing very well on this and a great job!

ByLaws and Policy – Jeff Fay – We got Bennington county squared away; other clubs are contacting me also.

Annual Meeting – Mike Burns – We have a couple more meetings, doing final details, going well.

Personnel - Jeff Fay – All reviews have been completed.

Safety – Pat Poulin – Cindy Locke and I met to go over the handbook for the new ambassador/trail inspector/safety inspection program that we are working on.

Pat Poulin moved to go into Executive Session to include Directors, Alt. Directors, Officers and Staff to discuss legal issues, second by Dick, motion carried.

Dick Jewett moved to come out of Executive Session, Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried.

Dick Jewett moved to adjourn, Curt Marechaux seconded, meeting adjourned.

Adjourned at 7:45 PM.