

VAST Board of Directors – June 24, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

Approved at the July 23, 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
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Vacant
Lamoille: Ellis O'Hear
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Absent
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Drew Fraser
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Ivor Stevens, Windham County; Carmin Lemery, Lamoille County.

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
Trails Manager: Ken Brown

GUESTS PRESENT: Tim Parks, Gordon Holmes.

Meeting called to order at 11:32 AM.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Roger Gosselin moved to approve the amended agenda; Dick Jewett seconded, motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report: Sonia Koehler gave a brief overview of the financials ended May 31, 2018.

Pat Poulin moved to approve; Stewart Ahearn seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

LVRT Status

- Cindy Locke – I haven't gotten a last report on the budget from the Legislature; they are still in session.
- The Senate passed it but the House has some issues. This shouldn't affect our getting the \$75,000, but it may delay it.
- I am still in the process of asking for more money, asking for an additional \$150,000.
- Ken Brown – 1C – Based on the \$75,000 from the Legislature and \$40,000 from VAST for the washout, we have asked VHB to redo the package for 1C. We can't afford the whole project; they will tailor it to a few smaller projects that we can afford.
- Able to do the 1.5 miles from Sheldon to the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail, including the bridge over the Missisquoi River and the big washout with current budget. Possibly add 4 miles starting in Swanton if we get more funding.
- The process now is in other people's hands.
- VHB needs to get the bid package together and submit it to VTrans, then VTrans submits it to the Feds, then it goes out to bid for a month. We hope to have a contract in September and we could start working in the fall. Insert from EMAIL.
- Work on the trail between Hardwick and East Hardwick; there are two big bridges in that section. We need to re-deck those bridges and fix any major washouts and make it safe for pedestrian use. It won't be a finished project, but we'll do as much as we can with the money we have.
- Considerable discussion about projects, funding, timing, etc.
- Hardwick is a REAP zone so it's an 80/20 match, instead of a 50/50 match, so it's better for us.

Policy Changes

Capitalization Policy

- Jeff Fay – One page request. This came out of the recent audit.
- Boiler plate form put together by the auditor. They would like to have us include this in our Policy and Bylaws.

Mark Reaves made a motion to accept the Capitalization Policy; Dick Jewett seconded, motion carried.

Mark Reaves made a motion to use GIS data to determine grooming mileage. If a club disagrees with the mileage, they must submit data to back their claim; the Trails Administrator will then review and make a decision. If a club disagrees with the TA's decision, they can file a grievance with the VAST Board. Seconded by Pat Poulin, motion carried. We are now converting contract miles to GIS mileage.

- Matt Tetreault – I would like to work with the clubs and hopefully there is no grievance process as part of this.

ISC Report

- Pat Poulin – Update from meetings
- Delegate from the middle of USA and eastern seaboard were all there.
- Delegation from Norway even. They just started snowmobile programs there.
- Talked about off trail riding, decal placement, plates.
- Jeff Fay – We made a recommendation to take back to the manufacturers, that on the cowl, they make an area 4 x 6 or 4 x 8 that is a smooth flat surface for decal placement; same place everywhere, both sides.

- Matt Tetreault – Hand signals – we already have a recommendation on it from IASA.
- Pat Poulin – Pretty much general business. Most of the discussion for the 2 days revolved around the NE Chapter states and the relations with the ACSC. We separated from them about 5-6 years ago. In the meantime we have been giving them a list of the things we think need to be fixed before we come back. They just don't want to hear anything we have to say.
- Bottom line for the 2 days was that the Northeast Chapter is going to move on, but without the ACSC.
- I recommend that we start a new organization, North Atlantic Snowmobile Association (NASA).
- The NEC asked us to bring it back to our board with regard to moving forward without ACSC.
- Jeff Fay – There is another association we are looking into as far as the off road business association. It's the National Snowmobile Alliance. It is organized by an active past president and falls under the umbrella of the off road users. \$300 for dues. We are looking to join as a chapter, NEC to join the NSA.

Mark Reaves made a motion that VAST end any consideration to join ACSA and continue to join the Northeast Chapter of Snowmobile Associations. Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried.

Budget

- The Finance Committee has reviewed the FY'19 budget. TMA income for FY'19 is based on actual TMA income of FY'18.
- We need to have it approved 30 days before the Annual Meeting.
- Detailed review of the budget, reserve accounts, etc.
- I think we should consider moving back to a 3 day pass.

Pat Poulin made a motion that the 4-day TMA be replaced with a 3-day TMA; Lewis Barnes seconded, motion carried.

Cindy Locke is updating the budget and will send to the Board in the mail in mid-July.

Economic Impact Study

- Cindy Locke noted that the cost of this will be approximately \$15,000; last done in 2001.

Mark Reaves made a motion that VAST initiate a snowmobile economic impact study. If it exceeds \$15,000, the Board must approve additional funding. Dick Jewett seconded; motion carried.

Clubs/Trails Signage

- Cindy Locke – We've been talking about using the new Safety group to help us determine where clubs need help signing better.
- Some clubs we've been having issues with are being notified.
- Corrective actions need to be used.
- How about Canaan and follow up?
- Lewis Barnes – If they are not signing the trails properly, then I think we should hold money from them. They said they were going to sign the trails properly, we gave them the money to pick up the signs, and agreed to money to fix the tracks on their groomer, which they did, but they never signed the trails fully.
- Cindy Locke – I think we should ask them to come to the next board meeting regarding the signing of trails.

Safety

- Cindy Locke and Pat Poulin – Starting up a safety patrol; have people carry signs with them and if one is missing on the trail, they can let the club know.

Committee Reports

Annual Meeting – Mike Burns – Progressing well.

Safety – Pat Poulin - We will be meeting in July.

Governor's Council – Dick Jewett - SSTP budget has passed.

Mark Reaves moved to adjourn; Lewis Barnes seconded, motion carried.

Adjourned at 1:20 PM.