

VAST Board of Directors – March 26, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

Approved at the April 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: Absent
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn
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: Merritt Budd, Rutland County.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Angel Emmons, Ross Page.

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.

Secretary's Report: Roger Gosselin moved to approve; Dick Jewett, seconded, so moved.

Treasurer's Report: Roger Gosselin moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, so moved.

Tabled Items

Roger Gosselin made a motion to remove the Grooming Cost Analysis from the table; Pat Poulin seconded, so moved.

- Matt Tetreault gave an update of the grooming cost analysis that the Trails Subcommittee decided on. No further action was taken.
- General discussion about what expenses are included to determine the grooming cost analysis.
- In the analysis breakdown, some of the smaller clubs have access to mechanics but others do not. Should we separate those that are doing it themselves, as opposed to the manufacturer doing it?
- Matt will continue to work with the subcommittee on this.

Old Business

LVRT Status

- Cindy Locke noted that the LVRT permitting status is delayed until next month.
- There was discussion about continuing with some of the 1C work this summer.
- The permitting has already gone through for 1C. \$40,000 – 80% of that is paid by the state – done.
- Ken has put together some reports regarding construction; narrowed down what we talked about at the last meeting.
- To recap, I have met with the state and with both committees in the house and senate. They are trying to look for funding for us. They are agreeable that they will be moving forward in helping us to pay for this trail and do the 20%, but we are limited to when we can get all the money because some budgets are already approved.
- Ken Brown – We have the Northern Border's grant which expires at the end of next year. We have to use that grant up before we can put in for another grant from that agency. This is a 3 year grant, but they would like to know by May 2019 if we are going to use it.
- Concept of an Adventure trail - to open it as a snowmobile trail. Estimates include fully refurbishing bridges, so that the trail could be used by bikes, need to meet lease requirements and ADA standards.
- Bridges are the biggest expense here. And I think we should fix these completely so that the trail connects.
- REAP Zone is a federally designated area that is economically depressed.
- Mark Reaves – why don't we just do the small 20 foot bridge as a club project; we have steel beams available.
- That would be a VAST club project.

Roger Gosselin made a motion to move forward with the proposal C2, to repair the big washout on phase 1C with some of the Northern Borders grant; Mark Reaves seconded, so moved.

Mike Burns – Would like to see them raise the rail/trail bed because of high water in some areas in the Bakersfield area.

New Business

Vermont Reciprocal Weekend

Cindy Locke - I haven't heard from the other states on this yet. This past year was the last year that it is in state statute that we do a reciprocal weekend with NH. Maine and NY have moved to a free weekend. Do we want to just do a free weekend? Scheduled for the same time; 1st weekend in February?

Roger Gosselin moved; Pat Poulin seconded, to move from a reciprocal weekend to a free weekend, with the date being set at a later time.

PR & Marketing Committee

- Tim Mills presented a plan to eliminate the PR & Marketing Committee and turn that role over to Staff. Then we will start an Events Committee which is a work in progress (see below).

VAST Events Committee

- Cindy Locke – If someone wants to propose holding a VAST event then they need to actually abide to the BOD in order to hold that event. They are responsible for coming up with the committee.
- Put together an application, timeline on what to do, a guide. This is not for club events. The BOD would approve or disapprove the event.

VAST Ambassador Program

- Cindy Locke and Pat Poulin gave an overview of the VAST Ambassador Program, which may also include a safety patrol. Work is ongoing for this program.
- Pat Poulin - The Safety Committee is looking at establishing a trail safety patrol unit, and it dovetails into this program. I would like to hear from all counties on starting these two programs.

Committee Reports

Awards & Nominating

VAST Scholarships – They received 14 applications this year and selected two winners – Ally Martin and Cameron Burkhardt.

By Laws – Jeff Fay is working with Orange County on updating their county bylaws. Jeff has offered to help other counties with bylaws if they would like assistance.

Miscellaneous

There was discussion about off trail riding. This was a topic at the Northeast Chapter meeting as well. There is a growing concern with illegal off trail riding and this needs continued conversations.

Roger Gosselin made a motion to adjourn; Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.