

VAST Board of Directors – May 21, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

1st Draft to be approved at the June 24, 2018 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills

Vice President: Jeff Fay

Treasurer: Absent

Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes

Bennington: Mike Viggiano

Caledonia: Ken Gammell

Chittenden: Pat Poulin

Essex: Stewart Ahearn – via phone

Franklin: Mike Burns

Grand Isle: Vacant

Lamoille: Ellis O’Hear

Orange: Juliann Sherman

Orleans: Roger Gosselin

Rutland: Curt Marechaux

Washington: Mark Reaves

Windham: Drew Fraser

Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Conrad Stewart, Addison County; Ben Robinson, Caledonia County; Ivor Stevens, Windham 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.

Meeting called to order at 6: 02

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Lewis Barnes moved to approve, with changes; Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

Secretary's Report: Curt Marechaux moved to approve; Dick Jewett seconded, so moved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer is absent; Cindy Locke gave an overview.

- Cindy Locke noted that we had a Finance meeting this evening.
- The Finance Committee has reviewed the end of the year finances and are looking at next year's budget.
- The budget will be presented to the BOD in June and will vote on it in July in order to be ready for the Annual Meeting.
- We are looking at coming out ahead this year, a little.
- About 400 TMA's below from last year, but doing okay because of the \$5.00 increase.

Old Business

LVRT Status Update

- Cindy Locke – We had a Committee meeting last week and the legislature did vote through \$75,000 to give us to help with the construction this summer as part of our match money.
- Our project and our work are looked upon favorably by the Governor and by AOT.
- We have \$40,000 that VAST has committed and \$75,000 approved to us, and possibly another \$75,000.
- In order to get 1C in process this summer, we need to get this going; the bid process takes about 2-3 months.
- Ken will talk to you about what the Committee decided on as far as funds go.
- Ken Brown – If we get \$75,000 from the State and VAST puts in \$40,000, we should have enough to do the big bridge over the Missisquoi River and about 1.5 miles of trail and do the big washout.
- If we get more money, we have an option to add more miles of trail; start in Swanton and work toward Highgate to connect two more towns. It's not enough to do all of 1C, but it would open it up to snowmobiling.
- Northern Borders Grant – This grant would not be used for the above. Instead we can use it in Caledonia County where we can get a better match rate. Two towns have come to us and want to work on the trail in their community; local match.
- Stannard Mtn Bridge – If a lot of other groups get together with financing/volunteering, this may get fixed as well.

New Business

On Line TMAs

- Cindy Locke - We had a club that wanted paper TMAs by October 1st because they have an event scheduled.
- We can't get the forms by then because of the timing of the Annual Meeting, etc.
- What about going on line by October 1st?
- The TMA stickers could be printed way before then.

- Jeff Fay – It would be a matter of someone updating the price right after the Annual meeting and sending that file to the printers to get them done asap.

#### Trails Committee / Recommendations

- Tim Mills – FYI - Jeff Fay is now the Chair of the Trails Committee.
- Matt Tetreault – May is the Special Trails Committee meeting where clubs come to us with any new trails Contract upgrades.
- Approve all the requests with the exception of one, which was tabled. We are still working on a resolve.
- I met with Dick Jewett and Drew Fraser to discuss the club that sits between two other clubs and discussed some options to try and resolve the issue.
- Andover wants to upgrade 15 miles of trail from a Class 4 to Class 3, and buying an 8 foot machine for grooming.
- This does not make fiscal sense. We talked about one of the existing clubs doing the grooming, but there are some territorial issues.
- Dick Jewett – If they have the ability to operate the machine that may help. There is quite a lot of trail upgrade to be done, but that would be cheaper than buying a new groomer.
- Drew Fraser – I'd like to have a meeting on neutral ground about this. I think we can make it work.
- We need to make sure they know that we are not trying to take their club out.
- Lewis Barnes – We have the same situation with our club. We groom it, but the other club does, or helps with trail maintenance.
- Jeff Fay – I think they will realize the financial advantage of not owning a large piece of equipment.
- Andover Mountaineers – have about 60 – 100 members.

#### Matt – Notes on Individual Clubs

- Shaftsbury Snow Pilots – They are trying to upgrade. The Glastenbury Tower trail is steep, lots of riders use this trail because of the great views. This is within the GMNF and widening has been approved based on current trail classifications.
- Drift Dusters – They are adding 15.8 miles to the contract. They have a subcontractor who is grooming it for them at no charge. They would like to pay him something for the grooming.
- Hurricane Riders – Add 3.5 miles to their contract. Will allow access to lodging and the Quechee Gorge.
- Contingent on businesses paying for some of the expenses on the construction of 2 bridges.
- I would like a motion to approve the recommendations of the Trails Committee for additions to the trails system.

Mark Reaves moved to approve the recommendations by the Trails Committee for additions to the trails system; Curt Marechaux seconded, so moved.

- Matt Tetreault – The Trails Committee was also approached by Ron Merrill/Ron Merrill Masher, regarding a cutter bar. This new policy would include other cutter bars as well.
- Moving forward we will purchase a couple each year, but not retroactive.
- I think this is a good move; we need to check with landowners on this.
- Working on specific language, cutter bars policy, etc. It's coming out of the debrushing funding.
- Jeff Fay – If a club gets a grant one year, they don't get one the next year.
- Pat Poulin – I'd like to see the final policy on this.
- Tim Mills – Bring back the policy next month to the BOD.
- Mike Burns – Will this reduce the amount of funding to clubs for debrushing?
- Matt Tetreault – Yes, it will, but we think the cutter bars are a more efficient way to maintain the trails.
- Ellis O'Hear – If we give a grant for a club to get one of these, if the thing if working right, they shouldn't need another grant for debrushing.
- Curt Marechaux – I think this wording should be in the policy.
- Juliann Sherman – A piece of equipment has a lifespan and they shouldn't be allowed to apply for another grant until the lifespan of that piece is done.
- Jeff Fay – Is this something we can get out to the board and do a vote via email?

#### Road Crossing Signs

- Pat Poulin – the Safety Committee has been working on a way to improve road signs for first responders to get to accidents faster. The sample we came up with is displayed.
- Stop Sign / Route / Town Name / Trail number / Club Name
- Roger Gosselin – The option is also available if you have a long driveway, you can use the E-911 address at the driveway.
- Developed a draft guideline we would like them to use, so that the font, size, and color are all the same.
- Cost of the sign is \$2.10.
- Roger Gosselin – We are looking at doing signs for landings, junctions also.
- Working on Binders for all dispatchers with club and county information.

Pat Poulin moved that we approve the Trail Committee recommendations for the road crossing signs; Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved.

#### CPI Increase to Equipment Grant In Aid Funding Amounts

- Matt Tetreault – The details are broken down in my report. A few years back we tried to keep up with inflation.
- This year it went up 2.3%, so it would bump the cap on grooming based on the CPI annually.
- 0 – 7.9 weeks from \$34,300 to \$35,100
- 8 – 11.9 weeks from \$51,400 to \$52,600
- 12 – 16 weeks from \$68,500 to \$70,100

- Mark Reaves – The Policy allows us to discuss it every year, with respect to the numbers of TMAs sold.

Mark Reaves made a motion not to approve the cost raise of the CPI of 2.3% for equipment grants; Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.

#### Caledonia County Trails Association

- Ken Gammell presented a letter to the BOD. We lost a lot of members this year; we need new equipment, but don't have the members to support the costs. We are losing volunteers to maintain the trails.
- Tim Mills – Why do you feel it needs to go to all the counties?
- Ken Gammell – I think I'd like to have everyone review it.

#### Trails / ED / LVRT

- Cindy Locke - Our retreat in June is to talk about the future of VAST.
- Ken Gammell - We talked about having a Resource Committee for Matt to help make these decisions.
- Cindy Locke – There are a few of us going to Congress in a couple of weeks and we'll report back to you.
- Cindy and Matt will be going to IASA; Pat and Jeff will be going to the NE Chapter part.

#### Committee Reports

##### Northeast Chapter

- Pat Poulin – More on this after the Congress meeting.

##### Multi-Use

- Roger Gosselin – We had our first meeting and it went well.
- Two main topics – ATVs during the summer, maintenance issues and costs and how to share them.
- Pilot trails to share ATVs on the trails with snowmobiles.
- There is a section between Derby and Island Pond, but there are a lot of issues associated with doing this.
- Met with VASA attorney and our insurance broker tonight and they suggested not to do the pilot.
- Before we try to change the legislation, survey the members and landowners to see how they feel about it.
- Nothing will happen this year, but we are making progress. More complicated than we originally thought.

##### Awards and Nominating

- Tim Mills - Patty Companik has been very busy with this. The Committee decided to let the people that will receive awards know that they have won an award, but not the specific award. That way hopefully they will be in attendance at the meeting.

- She has made some suggestions about when/how the awards are presented to make it smoother and faster.

#### Annual Meeting

- Mike Burns – We will be meeting tomorrow night to finalize details.

#### Finance Committee

- The Committee met tonight and it was presented.

#### Long Range Planning

- We have met and are preparing for the retreat.

#### Personnel

- Executive Session tonight.

#### Governor's Council

- Dick Jewett – At the last meeting we spent a lot of time talking about off trail riding.
- Dick is stepping down as Chairman of the Governor's Council and Pat Poulin is stepping up.
- Dick will be the Southern Representative.

Matt Tetreault noted the following on funding:

- Awarded three equipment grants to various state agencies.
- \$5,000 to the state police to help with the purchase of snowmobiles
- \$5,000 to F&W for purchase of snowmobiles
- \$4,875 to Sheriff's Association for purchase of snowmobiles

Motion to adjourn by Roger Gosselin; seconded by Mark Reaves.

Adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Executive Session to include the Board of Directors, Officers and Alternate Directors.

Roger Gosselin moved to go into Executive Session at 7:35 PM, seconded by Dick Jewett, motion carried.

Roger Gosselin moved that the Board accept the Personnel Committees recommendations of salary increase for the VAST Executive Director; seconded by Ellis O'Hear, motion carried.

Pat Poulin moved to adjourn the Executive Session, seconded by Mike Burns, motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:45 PM.

