

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

Final - Approved at the November 19, 2018 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Treasurer: Sonia Koehler
Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Not Present
Caledonia: Ken Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd
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: Ivor Stevens, Windham 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: Angel Emmons, Ed Hebebrand.

Meeting called to order at 6:02

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Curt Marechaux moved to approve; Lewis Barnes seconded, motion carried.

Tim Mills noted to add an Executive Session to include VAST Staff, Officers, Directors, Alternate Directors.

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

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Locke noted that we are going to talk about the Reserves funding. The Finance Committee met regarding this. Nothing has changed on the budget that the membership approved.

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

Old Business

LVRT Status

- Ken Brown – Munson Earth Moving will start the work soon and it is all weather dependent.
- They may be able to finish the bridge before winter.
- Possible ditch work, cutting of trees. They have until July 1 to finish the work.
- Jeff Fay – Bridge 68. Has it been determined that there will be anything protective on the deck of the bridge?
- Ken Brown – No, we are not going to. We haven't done it to any of the other bridges.
- Mike Burns – Bridge 93; worried about people using it as a short cut to 105.
- Sheldon Springs to the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. How are we going to take care of it?
- Cindy Locke – We are working with Dan Favreau, they have equipment to take care of it.

Reserves – Allocation for FY 19

Cindy Locke referred to the handout supplied. She reviewed the details for the proposed reserves.

General discussion ensued regarding the reserves, how they work, amount, etc.

Mark Reaves moved to approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee to move funds to the reserves as proposed; Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried.

VSTC Funding

- Jim Hill – We talked in the past about taking a portion of each TMA and put towards this funding. We would wait until the end of the year to determine how much we could take.
- We do have 4 possible easements in the works right now.
- Put a line item in the budget every year to allow for funding going forward.
- Cindy Locke – VSTC is separate from VAST. The money would go to an account that can be controlled by VAST.
- Mark Reaves - Could we change the bylaws to add this in like we did for the scholarships? It would get the word out to a wider audience.
- We have \$92,000 in the account now for over a year.
- Mark Reaves – Do we have a rough average of costs for an easement?
- Jim Hill - Somewhere around \$5,000 for expenses. But if you have to purchase the easement, it's more.

Act 250 Update

- Cindy Locke – It has been very busy on this subject. VT Trails Alliance was born because of this.
- We are telling them that we are not the infrastructure around the development.
- FP&R has not represented us well.
- We are working with the conservation organization.
- We are trying to educate people about VAST and the trails system.

VT Trails Alliance

- Cindy Locke – This organization is made up of around 10 large trail organizations around the state.
- We are still recruiting others.

- All the organizations are pitching money in so we have representation at the state house.
- Could we get an update on economic impact study?
- Cindy Locke – They have not started yet. We are going through the Northern Vermont University.
- They have a class / senior all set to do this. It will take 6 months to do it.
- Hoping to maybe present results at the Annual Meeting.

Committee Reports

Northeast Chapter

- Jim Hill – United Snowmobile Alliance is the new organization we have created. It will include NY, CO, CA, NV, ID, ND.
- We have a meeting next month to finalize paperwork. There are lots of states joining us as opposed to joining ACSA.

Multi-Use

- Roger Gosselin – We have a Nov 1st meeting. We want to find out if our membership even wants to share the trails.
- We have received a \$10,000 Yamaha grant for this, landowner's surveys, marketing, etc.

2019 Annual Meeting

- Ken Gammell – We will hold it at the Northern Vermont University. Nice place for the event; all is going well.

Trails

- Jeff Fay - Next meeting is in December.
- Had a trails meeting before the annual meeting and it went well. Reviewed road crossing signs, etc.

Safety

- Pat Poulin – This Saturday we have an instructor's safety course. We would do two Saturdays in December for training if there is a call for it.
- Cindy Locke and I are working on the Ambassador Safety Program. State Police, wording on the safety education law. It is confusing on how it is written right now.

Governor's Council

- Pat Poulin – We are meeting monthly again; low attendance lately.
- Matt is working on the law enforcement contract. Have a new member from the Southern Task Force.

Curt Marechaux moved to go into Executive Session; Mark Reaves seconded, motion carried.

Pat Poulin moved to come out of Executive Session with no action taken; Lewis Barnes seconded, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.