

VAST Board of Directors – March 25, 2019 – Meeting Minutes

1st Draft to be approved at the April 22, 2019 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Scott Westlake
Caledonia: Ken Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd
Lamoille: Ellis O’Hear
Orange: Absent
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Curt Marechaux
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Drew Fraser
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Ivor Stevens, Windsor County; Merritt Budd, Rutland County.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand.

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM.

Recognition of Visitors:

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

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

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer gave a brief overview of the TMA count to date.

Pat Poulin moved to approve; Scott Westlake seconded, motion carried.

LVRT Status

- Ken Brown – Munson Earthmoving is working in Sheldon re-decking the bridge.
- Railings should up in a couple of weeks.
- Munson won the bid for 1a and 1b, so we expect good/quick work with this project.
- The Town of Hardwick is still working on fundraising for all their projects regarding the LVRT.
- Cindy Locke – Ken and I met with the Senate Transportation Committee last week to update on the LVRT.
- We have let them know that VAST is not putting any more money into it; we need that 20% match.
- The LVRT is a state resource, state owned land and VAST should not be footing the bill for all of this.
- Ken Brown – I went to a regional Rails to Trails meeting in NH. Local Motion, a bike path organization from Burlington is very interested in getting the LVRT done.
- Curt Marechaux – Are there registration fees for bike users?
- Ken Brown – No, there are no fees. It has been proposed at the State level by other groups, but rejected.

Off Trail Riding/Landowner Closures/Law Enforcement

- Tim Mills – What if we developed an SOP for landowner complaints/issues? This would be an email that would be sent out to the club and law enforcement for purposes of tracking them.
- Pat Poulin – I talked with the Governor's Council and Safety Committee on this.
- Cindy Locke – The other option is that you have a landowner that is willing to open their land for a play area.
- Liability insurance covers the landowner.
- Roger Gosselin – Polaris has a lot of money to put into off trail riding.
- Curt Marechaux– Take a portion of that money to do safety course for off trail riding.
- Cindy, Matt, Jim, and Pat are going to the Northeast Chapter meeting this week and we'll talk about this.
- Pull their TMA instead of a fine – the word will get out.
- Come up with an information poster - how much does a reroute cost? Loosing trails because of off trail riding.

VAST Authority to Revoke TMA status

- Cindy Locke - VAST really doesn't have any authority to revoke a TMA.

Shaftsbury Groomer Loan

- Matt Tetreault – They are looking to get a \$35,000 loan to buy a Snow Rabbit and they want VAST to guarantee the loan for them.
- They need board approval in order to buy this. We have \$20,000 available.
- Shaftsbury is a small club, but they have a lot of traffic in their area.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve the loan; Stewart Ahearn seconded, motion carried.

RideLite

- Cindy Locke – One of our safety ambassadors got in touch with RideLite to get lights for the Safety Ambassadors.
- The cost will be \$60 per light to directors / ambassadors – VAST will purchase them.

Hands on Bars

- Pat Poulin – We have been talking about keeping your hands on bars for about a year now.
- We are going to come up with some educational/information pieces and would like Board approval.
- PSAs, posters, educational materials.
- VAST can do its own educational handouts, etc.

Mark Reaves moved to approve that the Safety Committee develop a program to create some marketing information regarding hands on the bars; Curt Marechaux seconded, motion carried.

Trails Administrator

- Matt Tetreault – There is a policy in place for paying for grooming over the cap.
- It comes down to the Board of what they are going to pay at the end of the season.
- We approve 2/times a week grooming; if the club does it 3 times, we don't pay for the extra groom.
- Jeff Fay – How many clubs have reached out to you that are close to the cap?
- Matt Tetreault - About 15.
- Maine and NH are going up on their registration costs.
- Policy is that the club needs to contact Matt to go over their cap.
- Payments for going over the cap is not guaranteed, it is based on the membership numbers, and the Board has to approve the payments.
- There is no comparison between VT and NY, NH, ME, etc. because we are a private entity, we are not State run.
- You can't judge every club the same because they get difference snowfalls, they have different traffic amounts.

Committee Reports

Northeast Chapter

- Pat Poulin – A group will be attending the conference this upcoming week.
- We had a conference call with them a couple of weeks ago.

Multi Use

- Roger Gosselin – We have a meeting coming up soon.

Awards – Scholarships

- We have the two scholarship winners for 2019 - Carson Molleur and Morgan Stevens.

Annual Meeting

- Ken Gammell – The meeting will be announced in the next 2 magazines.

Trails

- Jeff Fay – We have a meeting in May.

Safety

- Pat Poulin – We thought we would offer this type of map to other ambulance services that need it.
- Bound, water proof paper, county maps.
- Cindy Locke – Let's remember that this whole 911 program started with Rick Kaminski.
- Pat Poulin – I was under the impression that the State was tracking snowmobile accidents. But, there is no repository for these. The Governor's Council is working on it; DMV may be the repository?
- Have there been accidents other than the 3 fatalities? Yes.
- Off trail riding – no fines shown.
- No Insurance – Fine is \$47.00
- No helmet – Fine is \$150
- Safety classes total this year are 1,900, 350 were classroom, the rest were on line.

Other

- Jim Hill – Free Weekend – We don't have any way to show the impact/benefits from this.
- Maybe have a voluntary sign in on the website to see what it does for us?

Roger Gosselin moved to adjourn; Mike Burns seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

DRAFT