

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

Approved at the March 25, 2019 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills  
Vice President: Jeff Fay  
Treasurer: Sonia Koehler via phone  
Secretary: Absent

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes  
Bennington: Scott Westlake via phone  
Caledonia: Ken Gammell  
Chittenden: Pat Poulin  
Essex: Stewart Ahearn via phone  
Franklin: Mike Burns  
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd  
Lamoille: Ellis O’Hear  
Orange: Juliann Sherman  
Orleans: Roger Gosselin via phone  
Rutland: Merritt Budd, Alternate  
Washington: Mark Reaves  
Windham: Ivor Stevens, Alternate  
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Merritt Budd, Rutland 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: Star Poulin, Chittenden County.

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Dave Ladd seconded, motion carried.

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

Treasurer’s Report: Sonia Koehler gave an overview of the TMA counts to date.

Mark Reaves moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report; Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried.

## Old Business

### LVRT

- Ken Brown – The contractors have started working on bridge 93 in Sheldon. They are starting to stage material.
- Mike Burns – The bridge in Fairfield; what about putting some money into it so they don't have to go around?
- Ken Brown – The abutments have issues and it would be very expensive to fix.
- Mike Burns – We have seen less evidence of 4 wheelers in the area overall.

### Act 250

- Cindy Locke – We are continuing to work on an exemption from Act 250 on the trails.
- Handed out a few pages for information on Act 250 rules, i.e., Rule 5B and Rule 71.
- In order to get exempt from Act 250 we are working with FP&R, ANR and other trail organizations.
- Would like to have a system set up where the other trail organizations do what we are presently doing.
- We have a meeting here next Thursday, March 7th with all the trail organizations.
- Will talk about what they already do and we will draft a one page proposal to FP&R and ANR.

## New Business

### Leadership Summit Update & Subjects to Discuss

- Cindy – Looking at renting a house in Killington for the Summit; dates are June 22 and 23. (Less expensive than motel rooms).
- Mark Reaves – We are looking at exploring the way we allocate grooming funds, looking at how clubs can use
- Social media too could be a subject.
- Giving clubs experience in working with contractors, other ideas?
- Matt Tetreault – What about outside speakers?
- Some clubs won't let other people in to help out and volunteers don't understand why.
- Have clubs schedule their monthly meetings so others can attend, i.e., non-residents.
- Have term limits on officers?

### Directors and Officers Insurance Update

- Cindy Locke – We just changed our policy. Our agent now has a different company they can work with.
- The cost is \$14,000, down from \$24,000. Cincinnati also covers all of our clubs, directors, officers and County clubs.

### Canaan Border Rider Update

- Cindy Locke – I have ridden their trails and they have done a good job in updating signs.
- There are still some clubs out there that need help in signing.

### Clubs In General

- Snow Depth – Make sure signs are not covered up.
- Double up Stop Ahead and Stop signs – That way if one gets knocked down or stolen, there is still one there.
- Reflectors on stakes with green flags are a good idea; especially on the crest of hills.

### Trail Administrator's / ED / Trail Manager's Report

- Matt Tetreault – There are 3 clubs that are about to go over their grooming contract.
- We need to see where the membership comes in at before we can do anything.
- 3 clubs are: Canaan / Sno Bees / Lambert Farm; possibly others.
- If they meet their weeks of grooming and grooming cap all at the same time, they can put in a request but nothing is guaranteed.

- Stewart Ahearn – The policy states that they have to notify ahead of time if they are going over it.
- Stick to the contract and wait until the end of the year to see what numbers are.
- Ken Gammell – They need to manage their contract. Let's table this and look at it next month.
- Jeff Fay – Do we have an update on economic impact study?
- Cindy Locke – No, I haven't heard anything; I don't think it's going to happen this year.

### Committee Reports

#### Northeast Chapter

- Pat Poulin - USA meeting in April 29<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse NY.
- Chapter ride coming up in New Brunswick in March.

#### Annual Meeting

- Ken Gammell – Plans are coming along well; going to be great.

#### Trails

- Jeff Fay – We will have a meeting in April.

#### Safety

- Pat Poulin – We met on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- NH hands on program that F&G has been initiated. Had some feedback on this program.
- Thinking about creating a poster to put out for promoting hands on.
- Hand signal is in the safety training booklet. Want to recertify safety teachers for the hands on.
- Hands on, always assume that there are other riders behind, ride safe. Promote the light?
- The state police does not keep track of nor do they get notified when there are snowmobile accidents.
- Sonia Koehler – Would like to have the 911 trails signs story in the magazine, it was a big help recently.
- Lewis Barnes– Canaan – I think the County should promote helping clubs to put up trail signs.

#### Governor's Council

- Pat Poulin - We did meet, but sparse attendance. The fines schedule needs to be looked at.
- Matt Tetreault – There has been lots of off trail riding, powerlines.
- We are not having good response from law enforcement of being out on the trails.
- Julianne Sherman – They are out in Orange county.
- Sonia Koehler – Orleans and Essex county are out a lot, at junctions.

#### Miscellaneous

Ellis O'Hear – We had a couple that came from PA to ride and they had a great time.

Mark Reaves made a motion to adjourn; Dick Jewett seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.