

**Board of Directors
January 24, 2022
Meeting Minutes – FINAL**

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT

President: Absent
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Secretary: Jim Hill
Patty Companik: Treasurer

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Caledonia: Bruce Carlson
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Absent
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Absent
Lamoille: Carmin Lemery
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Curt Marecheaux
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Michael Garber
Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
LVRT/Trails Manager: Ken Brown
Beth Flint, Technology & Media Manager
Cyndy Carrier Brown, Recording Sec'y.
Mandy Dwinell – VAST Office & Programs Manager

GUESTS: Ivor Stevens, Alternate/Windham; Mike Musacio, Lunenburg Polar Bears

Vice President Jeff Fay called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Washington County moved to approve the agenda as presented; Windsor County seconded.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Secretary's Report

Rutland County moved to approve the Secretary's Report as presented;
Washington County seconded.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Patty Companik gave a report of the financials as of December 31, 2021.
December 2021 - 3 months - 25% of budget season

Summary of Financial Report: General budget, Trails budget, Scholarship budget

Membership Income as of December 2021

Budget: \$2,478,385

Monthly income activity: \$1,475,067

Budget season so far income activity: \$2,103,007

We are at 85% of the budgeted membership income vs 2020 at this time we were at 75% (up 10%)

Income thru December 2021:

Budget: \$3,310,443

Monthly Activity: \$1,620,059 (of which 1,475,067 is from membership income)

Income to date/season: \$2,316,922

Overall income is at 70% of budgeted income expectations - compared to 2020 this time last year we were at 78%

Income overall is down 8% compared to this time last year - but Income for membership is up 10% compared to this time last year - so, we are net in the positive at 2% YOY

Expenses thru December 2021

Budget: 2,752,476

Monthly Activity: 363,418 (232,244 in Trails Expenses which represents 174k in Grooming Payments and 16k in GMNF payments)

Expenses to date/season: \$558,434

Currently at 20% of budget expense expectations - same as 2020 this time of year

Rutland County moved to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; Orange County seconded.

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Administration Request

- Cindy Locke – The money we requested was put in the Governor's budget
- \$50,000 law enforcement
- \$1M for equipment
- Next Monday at 5:00 we are holding a zoom meeting on this, it's a strategy meeting

Legislative Update

- Cindy Locke - Frank Stanley is our lobbyist. I have asked him to start attending our Board meetings to keep you informed of what's going on in the Legislature
- Act 250 bill – No trail issues, but we are always watching anything connected to this
- Omnibus bill – This was started by a caucus to look at primarily Act 250 and forestry. They added trails language in this bill, so we are watching it pretty close. We are working with the sponsors of the bill. A part of this is clarification of Rule 71
- These bills are not specific to trails, but we are watching all of them
- Also important to VAST is any purchase of large parcels of land that the State funds
- We are trying to have the Administration help us to make sure that if the State either buys land or helps a private entity buy land; and that if we have trails on that land that we always have access to those trails

Review Forms Page

- Cindy Locke – We know you get a lot of questions from your constituents about ordering signs, etc.
- On the VAST website, under Forms, there are resources for all the clubs, etc. Please make sure you are familiar with all our forms and links
- There is a groomer video made by the state of Maine; it's a great resource for you to share with clubs too

AORRG Update

- Mark Reaves – We had a meeting with the State of Vermont, Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) on Friday the 21st Friday to review AORRG's application
- AORRG is small compared to the normal RRG that come across their desks
- DFR's big concern was that we were looking at this as a way to make money. It was explained that VAST does not look at this as a source of revenue. VAST formed the RRG as a way to control how claims get examined and handled. DFR seemed pleased to hear this
- DFR requested a couple of changes be made to the application. Advantage Insurance representative Christina Kindstedt will make the requested changes and re-submit the application

Trails / ED / LVRT

- Matt Tetreault - Only a few clubs that haven't sent in their grooming contracts, so they haven't received a first grooming payment
- Ken Brown – There is an LVRT meeting with VTrans this week
- It's being run by a consulting firm (VHB); hired by the AOT to get a management plan
- VTrans has no intention of kicking us off the LVRT trail
- Pat Poulin – Where are we at with TMAs
- Cindy Locke - Stickers should be out by Feb 1st
- TMA numbers – Cindy will send the BOD a detailed page on TMAs per club/county
- Beth Flint – Stickers are not going to be numbered and are 4 x 3 inches

Committee and Other Meeting Reports

Northeast Chapter and USA – Pat Poulin

- Our annual ride will be Feb. 24 and 25, and the meeting is on the 26th in Island Pond
- Riding in NH one of those days with delegates from the chapter. About 20 people are going

Law Enforcement – Gary Nolan

- Cindy Locke – They are out and about – doing safety checks
- Paperwork still needs to be checked even though the sticker are not out yet
- Roger Gosselin – He talked with Trooper Shawn Selby; auxiliary is only doing Saturdays and Sundays. Roger should contact Wardens and Essex Sheriffs
- Pat Poulin - Is the VSP using their Task Force again this year?

Awards & Nominating – Patty Companik

Scholarships

- Applications are due March 1st
- Magazine ad was submitted for last publication and upcoming publication

Awards & Recognitions

- Nominations are due May 1st
- Magazine reminder was submitted for the upcoming publication

Bylaws – Jeff Fay

- We will meet later this winter/spring to do some housekeeping

Annual Meeting

- Cindy Locke – Being held in Essex County
- I believe the date is September 10th in Island Pond

Resource – Ivor Stevens

- We met recently, and another zoom meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 5:00 PM

Trails –Jeff Fay

- We met last Monday, next meeting is set for March 21st
- Please remember to have clubs update their trail conditions

Safety – Stan Choiniere

- We have been meeting
- We have received one of the signs we are working on; waiting on DWI
- International Safety Week this week – I want to promote this with pictures, etc.

Governor's Council – Pat Poulin

- We have been meeting regularly
- We are watching the request for monies that Cindy send to the Governor

Miscellaneous

- Cindy Locke – I want to introduce Mandy Dwinell to the BOD
- She is replacing Cyndy; fits in very well, doing a great job

- Carmin Lemery – There is a lot of talk on social media, not all good
- Our club is working very hard to get the trails open
- Doug Jacobs – Could we get the meeting minutes earlier, so I can have them for my County meetings, which are held at the beginning of the month

Motion to Adjourn

Rutland County moved to adjourn the meeting; Chittenden County seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hill
Secretary