



Board of Directors
May 17, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Patty Companik
Vice President: Mark Reaves
Secretary: Ruth Halpin
Treasurer: Stephen Conti
Past President: Jeff Fay (not Present)

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Jennifer Lucia
Bennington: Carol DeJohn
Caledonia: Bruce Carlson
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: John Hull
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Wade Lockerby (Not present)
Lamoille: Dustin Turner
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosslin
Rutland: Mike Stewart
Washington: Jeff Halpin
Windham: Michael Garber
Windsor: Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault
Media Manager: Beth Flint
Programs & Trails Manager: Mandy Dwinell
Office Manager : Tina Bedard
Finance Manager: Sheila Fenoff-Willett

GUESTS:

Ed Hebebrand; Caledonia County Alt. Director, Greg Rouleau; Washington County Alt. Director, Stan Choiniere; Windsor County Alt Director, Re'al Cyr; Franklin County Alt. Director, Mike Koehler, Orleans County Alt. Director, Tim Hunt; Rutland County Alt. Director, Tim Parks; Rutland County Trail Coordinator, Bob Farnham; Chittenden County President, Jim Dwinell; Long Range Committee member

President Patty Companik called the meeting to order at 2:02, in person, at the Waterbury Fire Department's meeting room, following the Annual Summit Meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Request to add to the Agenda: Ethan Allen Snow Travelers. Washington County moved, and Lamoille County seconded, to approve the agenda as amended, MOTION CARRIED

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Windsor County motion to approve, Orleans County seconded to approve Secretary's Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

No Report at this time, will be presented at the June meeting.

TABLED ITEMS

Nothing Tabled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Waterbury Suspension Bridge- Jeff H

Received a voice mail on Friday, will be following up in the coming week.

2. Policy Updates- Stephen

Updates will be presented to the Policy Committee, and a meeting will be scheduled soon.

3. Map gears App- Matt/Cindy

Discussed at Summit

4. GPS Units Update- Matt/Cindy

Discussed at Summit

5. Paper Maps- Cindy/Matt

Paper Map Survey handed out at the Summit. Discussion that decision needs to be made at next meeting, time sensitive for info gathering and printing. Cost requested for printing, possibly a pared-down version- Cindy to provide at next meeting. Suggestion that a survey be posted to Facebook on memberships thoughts. Discussion the possibility of Mapgears could extract/export a high resolution version, Cindy/Matt to look into.

6. Volunteer Strong Clothing- On demand Shopping- Cindy/Mandy/Patty

Discussed at Summit

7. Director/Alt Director Meetings Progress- Patty

Sheets handed out at Summit about suggestions/ideas gathered, and where these ideas were assigned. This list will be updated with the additional suggestions collected at the summit break-out session.

8. \$25 Promotional Weekend- Cindy

Beth is working through the information and compiling data for the board to review.

9. VAST Construction Course & Safety Training Update- Mandy

Mandy covered at the Summit.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Summit Business Placeholder

All the ideas and suggestions from the break-out groups from the Summit will be compiled and added to the Director/Alt Director Meetings ideas.

2. Ethan Allen Snow Travelers

Ethan Allen Snow Travelers are late on their Groomer Financial Analysis, due to a President change, etc. They are requesting to come to the board for an extension. Per the Trails Policy, the club was notified by VAST that a payment would not be made, since they missed the due date. The Rutland Director was advised to notify them to follow the grievance process- outlined in the Trails Policy. It was mentioned that there are timeline requirements associated with each step, that the club should be made aware of. Discussion on what to do with offenders that do not complete the Grooming Analysis and should it impact their start-up payments. Trails Committee has been recently assigned this to review in policy.

TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S & ED REPORT- Mandy/Cindy and Matt

Reports covered at the Summit. Reminder: There is an access code to get into the signage store online.

COMMITTEE & OTHER MEETING REPORTS

A. American Outdoor Risk Retention Group (AORRG) Insurance- Mark Reave

Getting prepared to go to Congress in PEI, with information for other groups about AORRG. Ed Hebebrand expressed interest in joining the committee.

B. Northeast Chapter & USA- Jeff Fay & Patty as VT Representatives.

Nothing from NE. USA: A lot of "noise" and "miss-information" regarding Sale of Public Land. They are just cleaning up old records/titles. Congress coming up, USA annual meeting and elections held at Congress for Treasurer and Chairman.

C. VT Snow Trails Conservancy VSTC President- Jim Hill

Conservancy has a position open, and are re-evaluating the direction of the Committee. Discussion on difficulty with having easements on lands that are for sale.

D. Law Enforcement (LE) Committee- Cindy

No Updates

E. Awards & Nominating- Amber Steven, Chair

Volunteer appreciation coins handed out at the Summit. Award nominations have been sent to the committee members.

F. By- Laws & Policy- Mark Reaves, Chair

Waiting on the policy drafts from Finance Committee, and voting policy changes.

G. Annual Meeting- Jennifer Lucia & Amber Steven

No new updates. Orleans County to host in 2026, meeting date tentatively scheduled for August 29, 2026

H. Executive Committee- Patty Companik, Chair

Discussed the upcoming Summit and finalized agenda.

I. Personnel Committee- Juliann Sherman, Chair

ED Evaluation emails to come out Sunday or Monday.

J. Finance- Steve Conti, Chair

In the process to move some of the VAST accounts to IntraFi accounts.

K. Long Range Planning & Organizational Committee- Mark Reaves, Chair

Will be compiling info from the Summit and report next month.

L. Resource Committee

Not Active

M. Trails Committee- John Hull, Chair, Mike Burns, Vice Chair

A meeting is scheduled for May 19th

N. Safety Committee- Stan Choiniere, Chair

Minutes from meeting are included in the BOD packet. Roger & Stan to finish the What 3 Words Sign. A reminder that NOW is the time to establish Landing Zones.

O. Social Media Committee- Lee Whiting, Chair

Met and working on the Online clothing store.

P. Governor's Council- Pat Poulin, Chair

One more meeting in June and are reviewing the SSTP Budget. Law Enforcement is onto boating this time of year.

OTHER:

Important Dates are on the back of the agenda each month. The Travelers guide updates are due by August 15th.

Milage Sheets will be available online to be turned into the office for the Summit.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Lamoille County moved to approve; Orleans County seconded to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm at the Waterbury Firehouse meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Halpin, Secretary.