

VAST Board of Directors October 24, 2016 Meeting Minutes

OFFICER PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills

Vice President: Jeff Fay

Treasurer: Tom Baltrus

Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes

Bennington: Vacant

Caledonia: Ken Gammell

Chittenden: Pat Poulin

Essex: Dave Page

Franklin: Mike Burns

Grand Isle: Dave Ladd

Lamoille: Carmin Lemery

Orange: Ron Garvin

Orleans: Roger Gosselin

Rutland: Merritt Budd

Washington: Mark Reaves

Windham: Roone Gibbs

Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Stewart Ahearn, Essex County; Doug Jacobs, Windsor County.

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke

Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault

Trails Manager: Shane Prisby

Office Coordinator: Cyndy Carrier Jones

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Ben Robinson, Kyle Daley, Mike Daley, Richard Poulin, Ross Page.

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Dave Page moved to approve the Agenda: Lewis Barnes seconded, so moved.

Cindy Locke noted that she would like to add a few minutes for LVRT officer approval at the end of New Business.

Secretary's Report: Dave Page moved to approve the Secretary's report; Dick Jewett seconded, so moved.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Baltrus reviewed the financials for the month end of September 2016.

Lewis Barnes moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.

#### Resource Committee Findings – Canaan Border Riders

- Mark Reaves, Merritt Budd and Lewis Barnes – Resource Committee. Mark Reaves reviewed the process of correspondence and emails regarding this issue. The Resource Committee recommend that VAST uphold the Trail Administrator's decision to withhold the grooming payments.
- A long discussion ensued regarding how long the issue of bad or no signage has been going on with this club for a long time; how the non-payment would affect the club, procedures to follow, getting a more responsible person to be in charge of the trails and signing, certified letters being sent to the club, etc.
- Lewis Barnes made a motion that we release half of the money, minus the cost of the intersection signs, and when the signs are installed, we given them the remainder of the funds; Roger Gosselin seconded.
- Roger Gosselin then asked the club how much money was needed to replace the tracks. The club noted that it was about \$4,800 each for the tracks and about \$4,000 to have them installed.
- Lewis Barnes withdrew his original motion; he didn't realize the tracks cost that much.
- Roger Gosselin also withdrew his second on the motion. He then made a motion that we give the club the money, minus the cost of the intersection signs, and withhold the new grooming money until the signs are installed. Lewis Barnes seconded the motion, so moved.

#### Committee Assignments

- Cindy Locke noted that we are adding a Volunteer Recruitment Committee
- Tim Mills – We pretty much kept everyone where they were for committees.
- Cindy Locke noted that she would like to add Ron Garvin to Policy and ByLaws Committee; he agreed.
- Tom Baltrus noted that a Building and Grounds Committee should be added to the Finance committee charges.
- Personnel Committee – Roone Gibbs was added to this committee.
- Youth and Safety, will now be just Safety and Pat Poulin has offered to be Chair.
- Pat Poulin – My concern in doing away with the Safety Committee is and just leaving it to the Governor's Council is that many of us on the board went through some work with lawyers on that lawsuit that Kenny was talking about, and the biggest thing that they kept pinning us on was, do you believe that VAST is really concerned with its' members' safety? We need to keep a Safety Committee and what its charges are and I'll do my best not to parallel the Governor's Council.

#### LVRT

- Cindy Locke – Steve Larabee has given his resignation; he has been on it for a long time, just time to move on.

#### Clubs on COD

- Cindy Locke – We have about 6 clubs that were warned last year that they could be on COD for this year's TMAs, signs, etc. She noted that we will work with the clubs to get these issues resolved.

#### Military TMAs

- Cindy Locke – I wanted to ask if the Board would consider changing the policy that a military TMA is only for a Vermont resident? There are some that are interested that are non-residents.

- Roone Gibbs made a motion to allow non-residents to purchase military TMAs while on active duty; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.
- Jim Hill noted that the policy for active duty should be reviewed.

#### Old Business

- Cindy Locke – New officers for the LVRT Committee would be: Dany Hale, Chair; Hans Huessy and Dave Mitchel.
- Roger Gosselin moved that we approve the officers for the LVRT as presented by Cindy Locke; Ken Gammell seconded, so moved.

#### Club Compliance

- Cindy Locke – These meetings start this weekend in Essex County. We have combined Franklin and Grand Isle county meetings. We have a power point presentation, compliance booklets; would like clubs to come out and ask questions and determine which clubs need help

#### Rock Maple Racing Update

- Cindy Locke – I did meet with Glenn from RMC.
- Roger Gosselin has reached out to his club and he knows the landowner also of the existing event.
- Jeff Fay suggested that Glenn get in touch with Todd Stone.
- Ron Garvin – Why are they looking for?
- Tim Mills – They are looking for between 3 – 5 miles of trails through the woods.
- Ron Garvin – Montgomery Timber is a large tract of land but there are no trails on it.

#### On Line TMA Update

- Cindy Locke – We have advanced quite a bit in the last couple of weeks. Beth has taken on one of the role to get everything ready to go; tying it in with Sales Force, etc. Beth would like some volunteers to test the system and see how it is working. We are hoping to get everything up and running soon.

#### VTrans Lease with VAST

- Cindy Locke – Michele Boomhauer let us know that we are getting an extension to the end of December.
- BOD will review the new lease when VAST gets it and approve it or not.
- Jim Hill – Do we need a motion to extend the lease?
- Mark Reaves made a motion to extend the LVRT lease until December 31, 2016; Ron Garvin seconded, so moved.

#### Trail Administrator's Report

- Matt Tetreault – This is a new requirement by the State as part of their standard grant language. Regarding the issue of liability insurance on automobiles; it applies only to grooming contractors and not VAST grooming clubs.
- Ken Gammell – We need to get together and refuse this.
- Roger Gosselin – is that a dead issue or do we need to send Cindy Locke there to address this topic with the State.

- Matt Tetreault – If we try to change this, we could hold up \$259,000 in grooming money while we are battling over this.
- Mark Reaves – It is very difficult to get any changes to this liability issue; it's basic policy everywhere when it comes to State contracts.

#### Directors and Officers Insurance

- Cindy Locke – I am currently looking into covering individual club officers. This has come up as a result of the Compliance Manual.
- Jim Hill – We were always under the impression that our insurance covers club officers.

#### LVRT

- Cindy Locke – Hans Huessey is volunteering his time on the LVRT; is looking into the Act 250 and sent me a very positive email today. He brought up the Burlington Bike Path and how they didn't need to go through Act 250.

#### Committee Reports

##### PR & Marketing

- Carmin Lemery – We are moving forward; Silver Mills is working on an event.
- To date we have been to 4 trade shows and possibly one more this year; 5 for next year.
- We can't afford NOT TO go to these trade shows.
- Cindy Locke – A number of board members have worked the trade shows and we appreciate the help.
- Mark Reaves – We explain to them that we are a private entity, not a state owned administration and they are quite surprised at that.
- Cindy Locke – We talk about our signing, our free app, places to eat, stay, etc. Our new Traveler's Guide was a huge hit.

#### Governor's Council

- Dick Jewett reviewed the minutes of the October meeting.

#### BOD Schedule

- The next two meetings will be November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### Executive Session

- Lewis Barnes made a motion at 8:10 pm to go into Executive Session, to include Officers, Directors, and Alternate Directors to discuss personnel items; Roger Gosselin seconded, so moved.
- Roone Gibbs moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:35; Mike Burns seconded, so moved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

**It is our goal to provide a statewide snowmobile trails system second to none and to provide a quality snowmobiling experience to our members.**