

VAST Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Draft to be approved at the November 23rd, 2015 meeting

Monday, October 26, 2015

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Treasurer: Tom Baltrus
Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Scott Daniels
Caledonia: Ken Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn, Alt. Dir.
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd
Lamoille: Carmin Lemery
Orange: Mark Richardson
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Merritt Budd
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Roone Gibbs
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT (if not mentioned above):

Doug Jacobs

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Coordinator: Matt Tetreault
Trails Manager: Shane Prisby
Cyndy Jones – Office Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Ross Page, Donna Higgons, Zeke Zucker, Joe Moore, Mike O’Hara, Dave Pastula, Angel Emmons.

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 pm

Recognition of Visitors

Approval of Agenda: Roger Gosselin moved to approve the agenda, Ken Gammell seconded, motion carried.

- Ken Gammell – I’d like to request that the LVRT get moved up to New Business.
- Jim Hill noted that it was not his intent to run as Secretary of the Board at the Annual Meeting. He was trying to make them aware that if they want to change the Bylaws, they have to warn the members before doing so.

Secretary's Report:

Dick Jewett moved to approve the Secretary's Report, Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried.

- Dick Jewett noted a few changes / corrections to the minutes. On page 4, at the bottom, name of the farm ?
- Cindy Locke confirmed that it is the McClure Farm.
- On Page 5 regarding the Line of Credit (LOC) for the LVRT, in the first paragraph it states that we had a stipulation and motion made only to be able to use the LOC for 1A and 1B. Then, where Mark Reaves made a motion, he understood it and he is correct, that we were trying to allow the LOC to be used for 1C also.
- All suggested changes will be made.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Baltrus reported on the financials for the period ending September 30, 2015.

- The revenue exceeded the budget, as predicted, by \$30,000. We underspent on Trails by \$161,000.
- The Annual Meeting expenses were out of line quite a bit and need to work on those.
- We ended up with a surplus of \$212,000, so all in all we had a successful year.
- **Pat Poulin moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Dick Jewett seconded, motion carried.**
- General discussion regarding the scholarship program and expenses for the annual meeting and budgeting.

Tabled Item – Trails Funding (not sure of these motions ?)

- **Ken Gammell moved to take it off the table, Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried.**
- **Ken Gammell moved to put the item back on the table, Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried.**
- Matt – We will have information on this for the November meeting, if the Trail Committee meets. We are discussing about moving money around so we can pay for projects in the dry months.

Consent Calendar – **Dave Ladd moved to approve, Roone Gibbs seconded, motion carried.**

Old Business – None.

New Business - LVRT

- Cindy Locke: We will talk about bridge #68 as part of our conversation after we talk about the Management Plan. The committee was asked to revise the LVRT Management Plan and they made some changes and then VTrans recommended some additional changes, which they took a shot at implementing and submitted to the board. I was not satisfied and also felt that that VTrans would not be satisfied with the work that had been done to the extent that we wanted it done. I asked a couple of board members to join me and take a look at it and made some additional changes and also and met with VTrans twice, once with the Rail Division and once with the Deputy Secretary and the Municipal Division. We had about 5.5 hours of meeting between everyone. They were very satisfied with our reports as far as what is happening with construction and our commitment through fundraising, as well as the money for capital campaign that we have received. The original management plan was written long before the trail construction happened and there was a lot of public fear that motorized sports would take over the trail as well as concerns from landowners. Their feeling now is that people are seeing the trail under construction, that it will be used by snowmobiles, but also by other groups of people. We have a growing relationship with the Friends which we didn't have before. VTrans felt that that it was VAST's right to take over and make sure this Board was making the decisions as to funding, budgets, planning the construction, along with VTrans and the engineers and that the committees' role has changed. VTrans also agreed that the LVRTC is not its own private non-profit and it is a part of VAST and a project of VAST and the committee should follow all policies and bylaws of VAST. VAST has already put in over \$1 M into this project and our willingness to see it through is proof that we want to work with everyone; they want to support us. The Rail Division has agreed to meet with us again and want to include FHWA and they feel that if we do another presentation, we might be able to get some flexibility from FHWA.
- My concern is that we (VAST) need to do the fundraising and we need people to help and understand the commitment of VAST and that's why I'm asking more of the BOD to be on the LVRTC.
- Mike Burns – there are major changes through the management plan, are there specific reasons why they were done ?

- Cindy Locke – In addition to what I said before: Shane, the engineers and I are making daily decisions about construction. The construction decisions need to be made through the VAST office and we cant wait for LVRTC monthly meetings to take place.
- Mark Richardson – If we approve the management plan, where does it go from there.
- Cindy Locke – It will go to VTrans; they have already preliminarily approved it. After that it goes to public meeting.
- Further discussion about RFP approval for fundraising should go through the LVRTC and this was not done. Cindy noted that no RFP has been sent regarding fundraising, only one for marketing and no contract was signed yet.
- **Mark Richardson – motion to accept the plan as presented, Mark Reaves second, motion carried.**
- **Mark Richardson – amend his motion to add back in landowner.**
- **Mark Richardson – withdrew his motion.**
- **Mark Richardson moved to put the LVRT Management Plan on the table and bring it back out next month; Ken Gammell seconded motion carried.**
- **Ken Gammell made a motion to send the Management Plan back to the LVRT Committee for review and they have to have their comments back to us one week before the next BOD meeting, which would be November 18th, in addition to adding “landowner committee participation back in. Mark Richardson second, motion carried.**

Bridge 68 Update

- Shane Prisby gave an update on Bridge 68 and what the plans are for this structure. Considerable discussion about repairing it, tearing it down, expenditures of doing either, liability issues, as well as discussion about the alternate route across a covered bridge and the issues that go along with that.
- Shane will be getting back to us with numbers for the December BOD meeting.

Committee Lists

- There are two new committees: The Board Resource Committee, as well as a New Publications Committee.
- We have an offer from Patty Companik, who is a contributing editor and photographer for the magazine, to chair this new committee and help Beth Godin, the new Media Manager, with the magazine.
- **Mark Reaves made a motion to accept the Committee List as presented; Roone Gibbs seconded, motion carried, with the exception of the LVRT Committee, which is pending approval of the Management Plan first by the VAST BOD's and VTrans.**
- **Stewart Ahearn made a motion to extend the meeting for one half hour, Roone Gibbs seconded, so carried.**

Awards

Dave Ladd – in your packet you have a form for the Trail Blazer Award. This is a new award and only one person to have received it so far is Norm Roark. You all probably know someone that fits into this category; please submit a nomination for someone. We will start a database of nominations and recipients.

Policy Changes

- Jeff Fay explained the revisions in the TMA section of the Policy with regard to the time frame that clubs have to return their sold and unsold TMAs back to the VAST office. These numbers are used for budgeting purposes and need them returned in a timely manner. Also within the TMA section, changing the Resident / Non-Resident to Vermont Registered / Out of State Registered. Also, the Military TMA still has a cost associated with it, where the Volunteer TMA is now free.
- **Mark Reaves made a motion to accept the Policy changes as presented; Roone Gibbs seconded; motion carried.**

VAST Guaranty of the Merchants Bank Loan to Mountain Tamers

- Matt explained that the Merchants Bank has a program which gives VAST a more secure lien on equipment that the clubs purchase. The Mountain Tamers are looking to finance a new groomer for 7 years. The payments based on the \$65,000 are going to be \$10,523.44 annually.

- Mark Reaves noted that this club is not in good standing with regard to their dues from last year, as well as a \$3,000 loan that we gave them for a bridge repair, and never heard from them again, etc. The County is trying to get them in compliance with county guidelines.
- Ken Gammell moved to approve the loan, pending club compliance, Lewis Barnes seconded, motion carried.

GPS Tracking Equipment

- Matt explained that we would like to purchase 4 or 5 units (\$4,000) to test the equipment and see how it works with our equipment, cell service, our interactive map, etc.
- Roone Gibbs made a motion to approve the requested amount, Mark Reaves seconded, motion carried.

Extend the meeting

Mark Richardson made a motion to extend the meeting until 9:00; Mark Reaves seconded; motion carried.

Governor’s Council

Dick Jewett noted that we need a representative from the south. Also, please have your club’s report to the County, who in turn will report to their respective representative on the Governor’s Council.

Annual Meeting Recap

- Dick – there were a few items we weren’t happy with. The online payment didn’t work through the VAST office, which caused a problem with the dinner reservations, but things got worked out.
- Also, if we have a speaker that is political, would prefer not to go down the political road.
- Tom Baltrus noted that we have a budget for the Annual Meetings, but it has gotten out of hand. We need to set an amount.
- Cindy Locke noted that she is also working on a “County Guide to Hosting the Annual Meeting”, and will provide it to Merritt Budd for next year and to Carmin Lemery for the following year to allow them time for organizing as well as budget information and guidelines.

Committee Reports

Tim Milles stated that any reports from committees could be found in the BOD packet if they had been submitted.

Other Business

- The next BOD’s meeting will be Monday, November 23rd at 6:00 PM.
- Roger Gosselin asked for an update on the magazine.
- Cindy Locke noted that Beth Godin was hired about a month ago and is doing very well. We are running about a week late on getting the November issue out, but all is going well. Also, the Travel Guide will be a little delayed in getting out with the transition. It has been laid out, but it hasn’t been populated yet. We are still hoping for it to be distributed early winter. The database and website take precedence over the travel guide at this point.
- Lewis Barnes made a motion to adjourn and Roone Gibbs seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 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.