

**Governor's Snowmobile Council**  
**November 3, 2021**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Present:**

Pat Poulin, Chairman  
Trevor Carbo, Vermont State Police  
Jenna Reed, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director  
Gary Nolan, VAST Law Enforcement Committee  
Star Poulin, Governor Appointee  
Jane Kitchel, VT Senate  
Paul Doucette, Southern Vermont Wilderness Search and Rescue

**VAST Staff Present:**

Ken Brown, VAST Trails Manager  
Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator  
Katie-Ann Thompson, VAST Office and Program Manager

**Guests:**

Stan Choiniere, VAST Safety Committee Chairman  
Mike Mustachio (in for Ken Gammell)

The meeting was convened at 3:03 PM via Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:**

Gary moved that the minutes of the October 2021 be approved as circulated, motion seconded by Star. ***Motion carried.***

**SSTP Financial Report**

I have not seen the October invoice yet, but expect it from Sheila any day now. It is usually around the 5th or 6th that she sends it for review and signature. With that being said I don't have a lot to go over at this point. We will be paying some equipment grants this month (November) as clubs submit the final expense for repairs and new equipment they are taking delivery of before the snowfalls. Otherwise, I do not expect any surprises. General expenses like postage, telephone, office rental etc.

**Motion:**

Star moved that the SSTP report be accepted, motion seconded by Brian. ***Motion carried.***

## **Agency Reports**

### Vermont State Police

Waiting for snow and opening day. Sleds are ready. Reminder that this year all those that pass the safety certification class will only receive a certificate, not a card, but they can take a photo of it and carry it with them on their phone.

### Fish & Wildlife

Jenna reported that they have two wardens almost done with training. One will be placed in Derby area and the other in southern VT. There is also one more in training and a few more lined up for training next year.

Looking to possibly work with NH again for on snow training. Sean is currently looking for snowmobile accident scene response training. Cindy stated that she would reach out to IASA to see if anyone knows of any as well.

### Sheriff's Association

Not present.

### Southern Vermont Wilderness Search & Rescue

Not present.

### Department of Motor Vehicles

Not present, but Matt reported that registrations are at 11,381 (revenue \$289,323) this year compared to 10,978 (\$281,182) in 2020 at this time.

### Forest, Parks & Recreation

Not present.

## **VAST**

### TMA Report

As of today, we have sold 2624 TMAs.

## **Law Enforcement Committee**

Gary Nolan talked about the upcoming meeting with law enforcement to go over changes for the upcoming season and additional information.

Beth Flint has been asked to host another meeting to show law enforcement how to use their new hand-held application tool for safety checks.

## **VAST Safety Committee**

Stan Choiniere reported that Roger was developing a list of club contacts for dispatchers. Also, the committee was identifying some message signs about

riding in a safe and prudent manor, zero alcohol tolerance and others. They are still working on the helicopter landing sites and signs.

## **SSTP Trail Report**

Grooming contracts will be going out next week, I hope! Parking Area Contracts will presumably be going out this week via email.

Map will be at the printers next week.

SSTP Report-Clubs are installing signs around the state before the firearms seasons are in full swing. Signs are difficult to get right not it appears. Orders are taking weeks to get to us so Ken has many backorders. I've also heard that Tucker will not have any tracks until sometime in late winter at the earliest even though they placed an order in April for them. This could negatively affect clubs who are in need.

Clubs are finishing up last minute trail projects. Unfortunately, things are very wet right now and it is not the opportune time to be doing this. Lots of calls from landowners who have recently purchased land asking about moving trails. This is posing a challenge with clubs, of both time and locations to move trails this late in the year. It will likely result in some closures. Many clubs are submitting for reimbursement of trail projects using the new online system. It is proving to me a learning curve for both the clubs and the Trails Administrator, but overall, it seems to be working out.

Clubs are performing maintenance on grooming equipment, making sure it is ready to go for the season. GPS units are being checked to ensure they are working properly before the season starts.

## **Legislative Report**

Jane just said they are still trying to figure out how to run the session this winter. They have not yet decided on full in person, all virtual or a mix of both.

## **Appointee Reports**

### Northwest

Star Poulin reported that many clubs have been busy working on trails and bridges and putting their signs out.

### Northeast

Mike Mustachio reported Clubs are all out working on trails, like Star reported for her region. Also, that lots of clubs are doing their best to support the businesses that they support. Derby now has a bridge as a point of interest and a photo opportunity.

Central  
Not present.

**Motion:**

Jane moved to close the meeting at 3:51pm; motion seconded by Trevor.

***Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Locke