

**Governor's Snowmobile Council**  
**September 1, 2021**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Present:**

Pat Poulin, Chairman  
Trevor Carbo, Vermont State Police  
Shannon Fassett, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles  
Trevor Szymanowski, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director  
Tim Mills, VAST President  
Gary Nolan, VAST Law Enforcement Committee  
Star Poulin, Governor Appointee  
Brian Smith, VT House of Representatives  
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 3:07 PM via Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:**

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

**SSTP Financial Report**

Matt went over expenses. The first invoice for the split of expenses has been paid for administration, office rental, supplies, phone, etc. Total of expenses is \$18,484.66 since July 1. Equipment grant money was also requested: \$90,105 and \$5,140 has been paid so far. We have a total of 6-7 grant requests.

**Motion:**

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

## **Agency Reports**

### Vermont State Police

Nothing to report.

### Fish & Wildlife

Trevor Szymanowski reported that they had a new dedicated position for recreational enforcement and that would be filled by Sargent Jenna Reed. Also, F&W has ordered one new snowmobile and may order just a few more to their fleet.

### Sheriff's Association

Not present.

### Southern Vermont Wilderness Search & Rescue

Paul Doucette reported that they do not have a lot going on right now. They were able to secure their annual grant to operate for the Department of Public Safety. They have a September 28 planning meeting.

### Department of Motor Vehicles

Shannon Fassett reported that Mike Smith is the new Deputy Commissioner of DMV. Registration numbers were announced: 2020 = 20,374 and so far in 2021 = 21,474.

Cindy Locke said the DMV miscellaneous bill has passed out of the House and is slated for signature.

### Forest, Parks & Recreation

Not present.

## **VAST**

### Registration Increase

The council discussed doing a \$2 to \$3 increase on registrations to help fund law enforcement and also equipment grants. Cindy will write a letter to the Governor expressing our desire and we need to ask that language be added to the Miscellaneous DMV bill.

### Accident/Investigations

VAST would like to keep working on this and finding housing for accident reports.

## **Law Enforcement Committee**

Gary Smith would like law enforcement to work harder at enforcing laws and issuing tickets. Right now, out of 9,218 inspections 1.2% resulted in tickets and 3.5% in warnings. Cindy mentioned that we brought in \$12,000 in ticket revenue last winter and spent \$120,000 on law enforcement. We should not be seeing

registration and TMA violation warnings after January 1 If someone is riding illegally; just like driving their car, they should be ticketed.

Beth Flint will be 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 said the next meeting is September 13.

### **SSTP Trail Report**

Matt Tetreault noted that there was some damage from small storms this summer.

### **Legislative Report**

Legislators were not present as the legislature is in session. Cindy is still compiling a list of desired legislative changes. Jane Kitchel and Brian Smith mentioned helping with the ask for the increase of DMV fees.

### **Appointee Reports**

#### Northwest

Star Poulin had not much to report. There has not been a county meeting. Some trail work is still getting done.

#### Northeast

Mike Mustachio reported a trail closing in our local area due to logging. There is no connector to St J right now.

#### Central

Tim Mills said his area had been pretty lucky with the storms compared to some. Matt Tetreault is working with clubs in Orange County on grooming and working together. Trail work is ramping up.

### **Motion:**

Tim moved to close the meeting; motion seconded by Star. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Locke