

Governor's Snowmobile Council

September 4, 2025

Present:

Cindy Locke (Chair)
Claire Polfus – Forest Parks & Recreation
Patty Companik – VAST President
Stan Choiniere - Governor Appointee
Marc Poulin – Vermont Sheriff's Assoc.

Gary Nolan – VAST L/E Committee
Mike Mutascio – Governor Appointee
Pat Brennan – Vermont State Senator
Jim Hill – Governor Appointee

VAST Staff Present:

Mandy Dwinell, Programs & Trails Manager
Matt Tetreault, VAST Trails Administrator
Tina Bedard, Office Manager

The meeting was convened at 3:02 PM via Zoom by Cindy Locke.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Mutascio moved to approve the June minutes as presented; Jim Hill seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of SSTP Financial Report of July Matt

Stan Choiniere moved to approve the SSTP Financial Report for July as presented; Jim Hill seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Agency Reports

GOV Council update – Cindy

The Governor's office has appointed Cindy as Chair of the GOV Council. Cindy updated on Pat Poulin. He is doing well and retiring from some of his VAST volunteering after many years. She thanks him for all his years of dedication and service.

Vermont State Police (VSP), Jacob Metayer

Cindy reported for Jacob: The Law Enforcement orientation last week.
It was reported that 19 online safety courses have been completed since May.

Fish & Wildlife, Randy Hazard

Not present. Cindy did catch up with him on Tuesday, 9/2.

Sheriff's Association Marc Poulin – VT Sheriff Association & Washington County Sheriff

They are trying to make sure there is enough staff for the season.

Police Chiefs & Southern VT Wilderness Search & Rescue, Paul Doucette

Not present.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Shannon Fassett

Shannon was not present. Cindy reported:

2024: 18,110 Revenue: \$462,034 VT total 12,422

2025: 17313 Revenue: \$270,526 VT total: 11,762

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Claire Polfus

- FPR has done an audit on gas tax funds.
- They have established a baseline for carry forward.
- FPR is working on better practices to follow from now on. Another line item will be added to utilize the gas tax funds as well.
- RTP will be launching in about a month. Pre-applications will be due at the end of November.
- FPR will be using VTBUYS to keep track of invoices and transactions. Grants will not be a part of that.

VAST

Update

The Annual Meeting is Saturday at the Addison County Field Days. Lunch is provided. A volunteer strong photo will be taken. The chainsaw raffle will be done as well.

- Law Enforcement (LE) Committee, Gary
Law Enforcement had its 2nd annual in-person meeting at VAST. They discussed working on putting together dates and locations for training. Killington garage has been discussed as a possible location.
- There was a discussion on how useful the safety ambassadors are for LE.
- Cindy had discussed and shown how to look at the back end of VAST's database.
- Safety inspection stickers were distributed.
- Contracts will be going out to LE next week.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

- The safety committee is taking a break for the summer. The What 3 Words sign has been finalized. It will be displayed at the Annual Meeting, as well as being in the enews and the magazine. Meetings will resume in a few weeks.
- Campbell Erwin, who is still in high school, is the youngest committee member we have and wrote a letter about promoting these signs.

Fines, Cindy

Frank has been working with DMV and the commissioner's office. VAST is requesting increases. Some riders are riding without registration and without a TMA, taking a chance because the fine is approximately the same as the cost of riding legally in Vermont. It will be in the DMV miscellaneous bill for 2026.

SSTP Trail Report, Matt

Matt reviewed the SSTP Report. The two advance funds requested were for gas tax funds and liability insurance funds.

Legislative Report

House Report

Not present

Senate Report – Pat Brennan

Will help when needed. Just let him know.

Appointee Reports

Northwest, Jim

Nothing to report other than clubs are getting ready for the season, and counties are starting to have meetings again.

Northeast, Mike

The Northeast clubs are getting new equipment. Clubs are prepping for the season.

Central, Jeff

Not present.

South, Stan

Trail work is underway. There have been some landowner challenges.

Motion to Adjourn:

Stan Choiniere moved to close the meeting at 3:45 pm; Mike Mutascio seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next Governor's Snowmobile Council scheduled meeting will be on October 1, at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Bedard
VAST Office Manager