

VAST Board of Directors – January 28, 2019 – Meeting Minutes

1st Draft to be approved at the February 25, 2019 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Treasurer: Sonia Koehler
Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Scott Westlake
Caledonia: Ken Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd via phone
Lamoille: Ellis O’Hear
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Curt Marechaux via phone
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Drew Fraser
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Doug Jacobs, Windsor County; Merritt Budd, Rutland County; Ivor Stevens, Windham County, via phone.

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke – via phone
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
Trails Manager: Ken Brown
Office Coordinator: Cyndy Carrier Brown

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Dick Jewett seconded, motion carried.

Secretary’s Report: Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Stewart Ahearn seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: 7 clubs still have EB’s.

Pat Poulin – I have a question about the expenses for the trail funding on the budget sheet.

Matt Tetreault - I will check on this and get back to the BOD.

Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

LVRT Status

- Ken Brown – Nothing has changed on the status.
- We are working on who will be the engineers in Hardwick.
- Meeting with Agency of Commerce and Community Development and some of the towns. Talking about trying to get all the towns to work together on signage, grants, etc.
- Before we spend too much time marketing the trail, we should finish building it.
- Mike Burns – What about the flood plain areas?
- Ken Brown – ANR people are involved with that now. Possibly bringing it back up 10 – 12 inches.
- Structurally I don't have any issues with building a trail there, except it costs more.
- There is a UVM research group looking at lowering some areas – near Elm Brook and Black Creek.

Act 250

- Cindy Locke – Reviewed her report that was given out.
- Cindy Locke – What we consider non-profit are like our VAST Trails, run by a non-profit.
- Commercial trails are like Smugglers Notch, etc. are not non-profit.

New Business

Leadership Summit

- Mark Reaves – We are looking for a dates, possibly June 22 and 23 at Seyon Ranch in Groton.

Executive Director/Trails Administrator/LVRT Reports

- Stewart Ahearn – Is there a problems with the miles on the GPS units in the groomers?
- Ken Brown – We are noticing a steady difference between the odometers and the GPS unit.
- There are 33 clubs that have the GPS units in them at present.
- Matt Tetreault – Once we have all the clubs with GPS units, then we will go with the GPS units mileages, but for now we will go with the odometer readings. They seem to be about 5% - 7% off in mileage. But overall, they have been working very well.
- Scott Westlake – WSB's was saying that they were losing a substantial amount of mileage/money going with the GPS unit mileage. Overall they have been working very well.
- Mike Burns – Do we have a plan yet for moving forward on the GPS units?
- The cost is \$32/month for the cell service plan per unit.
- It would eliminate the logs sheets, which create a lot of work for the clubs and for VAST staff.
- Cindy Locke – The GPS units also update the trail conditions on the map – auto update, groomer location. The clubs are liking the units also.
- We are working with the company to have it work on the app also.
- Roger Gosselin – I think it's good to move ahead with this as soon as possible.
- Juliann Sherman – Is there any kind of service plan so we wouldn't have to buy new equipment?

Miscellaneous

- Cindy Locke – I will be riding with the Governor in Essex County tomorrow.
- I am in awe of the VAST trails and all the work that is done out there by our volunteers.

Committee Reports

Northeast Chapter

- Pat Poulin – We had meeting on Jan. 16th.
- Jeff Fay – sponsored by Nova Scotia.
- NY has launched a map app – similar to ours.
- NY has had 5 deaths already this season.
- NH is working on a map app also.
- Ontario has launched there map app.
- NH is looking at raising their rates.
- New Brunswick was awarded \$.5 million for groomer funding.
- ISC is in Grand Rapids Michigan this year.
- United Snowmobile Association has a webpage up and Facebook up. Meeting in April at the Trails Symposium in NY.

Multi-Use

- Roger Gosselin – We have not met yet. Not much we can do right now.

Awards

- Scholarships – Forms have been updated and revised; applications are due by March 1st.
- Nominations for other awards are due by April 1st.

Annual Meeting

- Sept. 7, 2019 – Caledonia County

Safety Committee

- Pat Poulin – Our last meeting was in December; January one cancelled because of weather.
- NH F&G has come out with a press release for keeping hands on the handle bars. I want to run this by the Governor's Council at our February meeting.
- Matt Tetreault – I would think that the various agencies would coordinate their safety checks. I was out riding in Groton and they had two safety check stations within 1 mile of each other.

Safety and Military Event

- Orange County – Juliann Sherman – It went well for a first time event.

Veteran Off Road Program

- Stewart Ahearn – I dropped off donations.

Motion to adjourn – Dick Jewett moved and Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:18 PM.