

**Governor's Snowmobile Council
November 2, 2022**

Present:

Pat Poulin, Chairman
Star Poulin, Governor Appointee
Dick Jewett, Governor Appointee
Jeff Haplin, Governor Appointee Central VT Representative
Jane Kitchel, Vermont State Senator
Gary Nolan, VAST LE Committee Chair
Brian Smith, Vermont State Representative
Jacob Metayer, VT Dept of Public Safety
Becca Washburn, Forest, Parks & Rec
Jenna Reed, Fish & Wildlife

VAST Staff Present:

Cindy Locke, VAST Executive Director
Matt Tetreault, Trails Administrator
Ken Brown, Trails Manager/LVRT
Mandy Dwinell, Office & Programs Manager

Guests:

Stan Choiniere, Safety Committee
Claire Polfus, FRP Recreation Program Manager

The meeting was convened at 3:00PM via Zoom by Pat Poulin.

Becca Washburn introduction to Claire Polfus as FPR's Recreation Program Manager.

Approval of Minutes

**Dick Jewett moved to approve the October minutes as presented; Star Poulin seconded.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of SSTP Financial Report, Matt Tetreault

Typical monthly expenses of administrative, office rent, and supplies including the basic monthly expenses. September SSTP was briefly discussed during September's meeting, but the report wasn't finalized, and was included with the November meeting packet. Followed up regarding what the \$350 fee was, it's for DMV registration forms.

Becca inquired if there were pending invoices with FPR or ways FPR can assist. Matt confirmed the process is going well. We are still waiting on our RTP Grant Payment for last winters grooming. Matt has been working with Sherry on this.

Dick Jewett moved to approve the September SSTP Financial Report as presented; Jane Kitchel seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Agency Reports

Vermont State Police, Jacob Metayer

Not too much to report. Done with preseason preparation and ready to get started. One safety class is scheduled this weekend and another in November.

Fish & Wildlife, Randy Hazard

N/A

Sheriff's Association, Mark Anderson – President of VT Sheriff Association & Windham County Sheriff

N/A

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

N/A

Department of Motor Vehicles, Mike Smith

Pat shared Mike's DMV report of 10,643 registered sleds with \$270,253 in revenue.

Matt found the numbers from last year at this time for comparison but did not share them during the meeting as the conversation lead elsewhere. For reference the figures as of 11/1/21 were 11,323 registered snowmobiles generating total revenue of \$289,323.

Forest, Parks & Recreation, Becca Washburn

Becca extended a reminder to reach out to her if assistance is needed for invoices and if there's a way she can help facilitate questions.

VAST

State Funded Equipment Grant Program, Cindy Locke

Information has been sent to Joel at AOT, anticipate hearing back on updates when winter starts.

VAST TMA Sales

To date, sold around 900 TMAs. Volunteer and Safety Ambassador special categories will be live at www.vtvast.org soon.

Discussion on electric bikes. Question about registration.

Law Enforcement Committee, Cindy Locke

Discussion on Ride for \$25 weekend, which allows for information to be captured insurance liability wise. Also allows for increased L/E power for enforcing policies. Reminder that all funds from Ride for \$25 weekend goes directly to the clubs. The dates are January 27-29, which won't conflict with a L/E training weekend.

Jenna inquired on the advertising and information for the Ride for \$25 weekend. There is training for Wardens in December and she would like to include information on the weekend.

Discussion of partnering with VAST partnering with F&W on advertising the weekend. A Constant Contact newsletter will be emailed soon with Ride for \$25 details.

Jenna mentioned she couldn't find the statute information on insurance requirements that would require people to display insurance documents to L/E. Cindy mentioned the language isn't currently included and will hopefully be included for next year.

Law Enforcement Contracts, Cindy Locke

All L/E contracts have been sent out. Four agencies have returned contracts: Hardwick, Morristown, Washington County and Windham County.

VAST Safety Committee, Stan

Primary focus on Military and First Responders Appreciation Weekend in January during Safety Week. Stan extended appreciation to Cindy for on guidance with the event and coordinating information. More information to come on the event.

Working on having QR Codes on trail signs at interactions that would link to the VAST interactive Trail map.

Discussion on DART trail locations. Ken mentioned there are 4 checkmarks on the interactive map to signify DART locations.

SSTP Trail Report, Matt Tetreault

Been connecting with clubs on signage and landowner agreements.

There's been lots of trail maintenance due to heavy rains earlier this Fall.

Legislative Report

House Report, Brian Smith

Discussion on a property in Derby by Rte 114 on Conti federal land where it appears that the creation of a gravel road through two wetlands. Mentioned there may affect a potential landowner trail partial closure. Emailed information on the property to Cindy and Matt. May drive there this week to review the property and will reconnect with Cindy and Matt on updates.

Senate Report, Jane

Language included in DMV misc. bill to include updated language to include to present a physical copy of insurance and right to operate sled.

Discussion on LVRT with the estimated completion by Fall. Ken shared anticipates LVRT to be open for snowmobiles except for a bridge in Hardwick due to damage. Becca offered to share updates at future meetings from VTrans regarding LVRT.

A reminder the election is coming up.

Annual funding for Southern VT Wilderness Search and Rescue, Paul Doucette

N/A

Insurance Card Requirement/DMV Bill?, Jane
Discussed previously in the meeting.

Appointee Reports

Northwest, Star

Working on trails and landowner relationships. Clubs checking on grooming equipment. Pat shared a reminder that Richmond Ruff Riders club in Chittenden County is still functioning and has a new set of officers.

Northeast, Mike/Ken

N/A

Central, Jeff

Trail work, repairs & signage. Clubs are very active in making repairs from heavy rains in September. Waiting to hear on Washington County election for Sheriff's Dept.

South, Dick Jewett

Signs are going up. One trail has a trail closed, where the trail would have a couple of miles on the road. The club connected with a neighboring club for joint grooming on the section of the trail.

Next meeting Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 3pm via Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn:

Star Poulin moved to close the meeting at 4:00pm; Jane Kitchel seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Mandy Dwinell
VAST Office & Programs Manager