

**VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2021
FINAL**

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President – Tim Mills
Vice President – Jeff Fay
Secretary – Jim Hill
Treasurer – Patty Companik

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison – Lewis Barnes
Bennington – Carol DeJohn
Caledonia – Bruce Carlson
Chittenden – Pat Poulin
Essex – John Hull
Franklin – Mike Burns
Grand Isle – Damien Henry
Lamoille – Carmin Lemery
Orange – Juliann Sherman
Orleans – Roger Gosselin
Rutland – Curt Marechaux
Washington – Mark Reaves
Windham – Michael Garber
Windsor – Doug Jacobs

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Windham – Ivor Stevens
Windsor – Stan Choiniere
Chittenden – Richard Spitzer
Caledonia – Ed Hebebrand

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director – Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator – Matthew Tetreault
Trails Manager – Ken Brown
Technology & Media Manager – Beth Flint
Office & Program Manager – Cyndy Carrier Brown

GUESTS: Betty Roark, Woodford Sno Busters; Paul Fisher, Lorraine Tully, Fred March, Matt Nicklis, Jean Clark and Philip Lanzi, all from DVSJ's; Luke Fario, Wardsboro Pathfinders.

MEETING

Tim Mills called the meeting to order at 6:01

Approval of Agenda

Jeff Fay – Under the Annual meeting, please change that to Jeff Fay, Essex County.

Roger Gosselin – Please add under New Business to talk about landowner appreciation.

MOTION: Rutland County approved the amended Agenda; Washington County seconded. **Motion carried.**

Secretary's Report

MOTION: Chittenden County approved the Secretary's Report as presented; Washington County seconded. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Financial Report: General budget, Trails budget, Scholarship budget

November 2021 - 2 months - 17% of budget season

Membership Income as of November 2021

Budget: \$2,478,385

Monthly income activity: \$395,284

Budget season so far income activity: \$627,942

We are at 25% of the budgeted membership income vs 2020 at this time we were at 19% (up 6%)

Income thru November 2021:

Budget: \$3,310,443

Monthly Activity: \$ 434,821 (395,284 from membership income)

Income to date/season: \$696,866

Overall income is at 21% of budgeted income expectations - compared to 2020 this time last year we were at 17%.

Expense thru November 2021:

Budget: \$2,752,476

Monthly Activity: 92,730 ((39k in salaries and 22k in operating/office which 15k is from online TMA CC fees)

Expenses to date/season: \$195,012

Currently at 7% of budget expense expectations - same as 2020 this time of year

Overall our income is up YOY - 4% and are expenses are the same as last year this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Trail 100 Closure Due to Logging – Windham County

- Cindy Locke – We have had a last-minute closure of this trail by a landowner who is a the hydro company and also the surrounding land by the Forest Service due to logging.
- Hydro company has concerns about keeping people off the ice as well who may try and use that route.
- The DVSJ, Wardsboro and Woodford clubs have concerns about closing this trail off to their members
- 710 is a secondary trail with the Wardsboro club which we could use, but they will have to ride this trail slower. VAST is working with the club to provide signs to alert riders to the risk and to respect the landowner.
- Do we close it for one year, instead of losing it forever?
- Fred March – 4 years ago the hydro company said they would help with a trail reroute, so they wouldn't have to close that area. We received this notice only 2 weeks before the season
- Cindy asked if the club in the past four years reached out to the landowner to offer assistance with a reroute – being proactive?
- Tim Mills – What are you looking for VAST to do?
- Fred March – We would like to at least run the groomers up to the camps; there is an area there we can turn around. If things work out, there is that old trail we might be able to use
- Cindy Locke – What about putting a gate up
- Fred March – Yes, we'll look into a gate
- The NEK has a heritage meeting every spring that meets with the landowners, logging company, etc. to discuss plans, maybe the club should have meetings with this landowner twice a year?
- Fred March – So, as of this meeting, we can at least go to the Fishers camps.

We will put up signs to keep them away from the reservoir

- Fred March – Then we will work on the secondary trail with the national forest. We do have a relationship with them; hopefully they can work with us because of the situation and timing
- What happens if a lot of our members come to us for reimbursement of TMAs because of this?
- Tim Mills – There are a lot of other trails to ride on, this shouldn't be a problem
- Don't worry about it, we will figure out a way to have both the logging and snowmobiles can work together. They know this is a major glitch in our trail system.
- Dave Dominico – Find out who the land manager is, loggers, sometimes they will give you a lot of leeway
- Michael Garber – If Wardsboro gets increased traffic; what if we go over our cap for grooming?
- Cindy Locke – This is a unique situation. Yes, we will be helping them

TMA Sales Update

17,500 members so far.

Stickers won't be here until the end of January ? What do we do?

Maybe we just email updated paperwork for the season and let law enforcement know

Landowner Appreciation

- Roger Gosselin – I wanted to see what others are dealing with out there
Long Range plans – How do we show appreciation for landowners
Landowners say that taxes are going up and they get no compensation for having trails on their property
Compensation from the state, VAST, etc.
Do we petition the state for a tax break
- Tim Mills – That tax break issue would have to go through the legislature
- Cindy Locke – This issue has been brought up since the mid -70s, but it's always shut down.
- Roger Gosselin – It needs to become a priority

- Cindy Locke – It has never not been a priority for VAST and all recreation and sporting associations in VT. We continue this battle annually.

Trails / ED / LVRT

Nothing

Committees

NE Chapter

Pat Poulin and Jeff Fay; we met last week. Not much going on.

Provinces are expecting some covid issues again this year.

Ride in for February (Free Weekend); probably not going to see many from provinces, etc.

New Brunswick – They have done some signing that basically shows _____
NH is working on some stuff with USA

Snow Trails Conservancy – Nothing

Law Enforcement – Nothing

LVRT – Ken Brown – There is some work going on, but nothing much has changed

Awards and Nominating - Nothing

Bylaws – Nothing

Annual Meeting

Essex County – Cindy Locke; I haven't heard anything, they are still working on it, no date yet.

Long Range Planning

Mark Reaves – We have submitted our license for the RRG and are working on landowner appreciation ideas

Resource

Ivor Stevens – The first week of January we are going to meet to review stuff

Trails

Jeff Fay - January 17 is our next meeting

Safety

Stan Choiniere – We received some quotes on some safety signs that we want to have available for the season. We will discuss in January.

Also had some discussion about the International Snowmobile Safety week

We'd like to get something going on this

Julianne has experience in doing stuff for that particular week
Scheduling with law enforcement, check ins, safety stickers

Governor's Council

Pat Poulin – We are back to meeting monthly.

Will add a landowner item to the next meeting agenda

Safety Inspection stickers are in

The next Board of Directors meeting will be January 24, 2022.

Michael Garber – If an emergency situation happens tomorrow, is there a way to convene the BOD asap?

Stan Choiniere – On the website for the map, the trails are going to be updated by the groomer?

Matt Tetreault – Yes, Blue is groomed

MOTION to Adjourn – Rutland County made a motion to adjourn; Windham County seconded. **Motion carried.**

Adjourned at 7:24 PM