

VAST Board of Directors – May 20, 2019 – Meeting Minutes
Approved at the June 23, 2019 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Ivor Stevens, Windham County; Merritt Budd, Rutland County.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand; Troy Sanborn, Peoples United Bank.

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Pat Poulin moved to approve; Dick Jewett seconded. Jeff Fay added an additional item under Executive Session, motion approved.

Secretary's Report: Dick Jewett moved to approve; Lewis Barnes seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sonia Koehler gave a brief overview of the TMAs to date.

- 22,417 TMAS as of May 15th; 21,148 last year (difference of 1,269).
- These numbers were as of May 16th and we've had three more clubs turn them in.
- There is one club remaining to turn them in – BEST of Rutland County.
- Revenues from TMAs this year is \$2,448,766; last year it was \$2,336,142. We are up by \$112,624.
- Cindy is working on end of year projections.

Pat Poulin moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Scott Westlake seconded, motion carried.

- Dick Jewett – Legal expense are up considerably this year, why is that?
- Cindy Locke – We have been using legal services for the VT Trails Alliance for Act 250, but some of that will be paid back to us and also Hans has rewritten VAST contracts, etc.
- IRA Filings – We need to pick 4 clubs to be audited. We have a new firm that is working with the clubs.
- Last year's 4 clubs never got audited because the firm did not respond to us.
- Dick Jewett - Government Relations – Lobbyist expenses are higher this year.
- Cindy Locke – That's because we have Frank Stanley full time now, which has helped with all the Act 250 meetings and in the State House. This is split with the General Fund and SSTP.
- It is my recommendation is to keep the lobbyist on full time; it will be to our benefit.

Old Business

LVRT

- Ken Brown – Construction is going very well; they are almost done with all the big items.
- Still need to repair one pier on the bridge, waiting for better weather.
- They have put the trail surface down already on a little over half of it.
- Still need to do road signs, etc. The trail is ready to use this summer and winter season coming up.
- Cindy Locke – We will be doing a Press Release for the Franklin County area of the trail.
- There is currently a petition to the Governor to let ATVs use the trail.
- Our lobbyist, Frank Stanley was in the Senate Institutions meeting and found out that there is
- Leftover money available - \$50,000 from another trail group.
- If we get it, we will use it for the LVRT.
- Senator Joe Benning – Caledonia County – I told him about the LVRT and that we need funds to finish this.
- John Rogers backed us also. The bill has made it through the Senate.
- The State has only given us \$70,000 this year of in-state funds.
- The Capital Bill is a \$6 billion bill for non-transportation related items.
- Ken Gammell – I went to a Legislative breakfast in Newport. The Governor talked with me about the LVRT for quite a while. The Governor understands that we were dealt a very bad hand.

New Business

Investing Scholarship Funds

- Troy Sanborn from Peoples Securities, Inc. – As for investing the \$211,000 of the scholarship funds, there are different funding ideas.
- Great American Annuity Fund – The principal is protected; expense for this one is 2% total per year.
- Investing option – Growth potential; downside is the market risk. No fees with this option.

- Pat Poulin – In addition to the investment earnings, there is also \$.10 cents per TMA to fund this.
- Dick Jewett – When are we going to talk about how many scholarships we will give out and what the amount will be of each of them?
- Cindy Locke – We will talk about that at the next Committee meeting.
- Trevor Sanborn – Just remember, the annuity option is an insurance contract.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve using the Personalized Annuity option as presented by Peoples Securities; Pat Poulin seconded; motion carried.

Club Looking for a Loan

- Pat Poulin – The Williston Hill Hawks club is from Chittenden County. We get minimal snow so sometimes we are only able to groom a portion of our trails.
- One of our members had a side by side with a small drag and offered to groom for us this winter with the minimal snow we had and it worked very well.
- We are looking at a Kubota side by side with a mogul master drive and a smaller drag. We would sell the Tucker and the 9 foot drag and pay the loan back with these funds.
- We asked about a loan from Northfield Savings Bank for these items. We need a co-signer from the BOD for the purchase of the side by side and drag.
- The cost would be approximately \$41,000.
- Loan amount – \$31,752- Kubota side by side.
- The mileage of the route for grooming would be 21 miles.
- We would go from a Class 1 to Class 3 trail.
- General discussion about whether the side by side will work well for grooming, maintenance, cost, etc.

Roger Gosselin made a motion to approve the loan, not to exceed \$35,000, to the Williston Hill Hawks, with VAST as a co-signer; Dick Jewett seconded; motion carried. Pat Poulin abstained from the vote.

Trail Administrators Report

- Matt Tetreault – Revised report was handed out based on recommendations of the Trails Committee.
- Tim Mills – Grant in aid was not adjusted last year, so it will be adjusted for last two years.

Lewis Barnes moved to approve the increase in the maximum grant amounts based on the CPI; Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried.

- General discussion about some clubs making changes to their grooming contracts.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve the contract upgrades recommended by the VAST Trails Administrator; Curt Marechaux seconded, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Northeast Chapter

- Jeff Fay – Did a recap of the United Snowmobile Alliance meeting on April 29th. We had representatives there from CA, NV, CO, ID, MA, NH, NY, PA, VT. ME, ND and UT were not in attendance.
- We chose to join ORBA who will provide legal and lobbying assistance.

- We elected our first round of term officers – Roger Wright (NH), Chair; Scott Jones (CO), Vice Chair;
- Marcia Miller (MA), Secretary; and Janelle Kukuk (CO), Treasurer.
- Will be holding a meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan in June.
- PA left the NEC and their intention is not to join any chapter.

Awards and Nominating – Tim Mills / Cindy Locke – The Committee had a meeting and are pretty much done for this year.

Bylaws and Policy – Jeff Fay – We are in the process of reviewing both – will look at next month.

Annual Meeting – Ken Gammell - Larry Dwyer is doing a great job at organizing this.

Long Range Planning – Cindy Locke reported that Mark Reaves and I got together regarding the Leadership Summit.

Topics to Discuss

- How to grow the equipment fund, trail communications recommendations, grooming consolidations
- How to work with contractors (grooming, trail work)
- Discussing pre-meeting at the annual meeting – works well
- Signing the TMA form – it is a must!

Trails Seminar – Matt Tetreault – Had a meeting on Saturday, May 18th, went well – 249 people.

Governor’s Council - Dick Jewett reported 20,686 registrations this year; up a bit from last year.

- Lewis Barnes – If a person has no registration or no TMA this should not be a warning, it should be a ticket.
- Laws on off trail riding on private land are not stringent / clear enough – need to work with legislature on this.

Pat Poulin moved to go into Executive Session (legal issues); to include Directors, Alternates and Officers; Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried.

Lewis Barnes moved to come out of Executive Session; Roger Gosselin seconded, motion carried. No action taken.

Roger Gosselin moved to go into Executive Session with Directors, Alternates and Officers to discuss personnel Issues; Drew Fraser seconded, motion carried.

Lewis Barnes moved to come out of Executive Session, Roger Gosselin seconded; motion carried. No action taken.

Dick Jewett moved to adjourn; Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.