

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

Approved at the December 16, 2019 Meeting  
(there was no November meeting due to bad weather)

OFFICERS PRESENT:

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: 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, St. J. Snow Blazers; Brent Spears, St. J. Snow Blazers; Michael Koehler, Derby Drift Dusters.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.

Recognition of Visitors.

Approval of Agenda: Roger Gosselin moved to approve; Pat Poulin seconded, motion carried.

Cindy Locke wanted to add an item to the agenda – Approval for Safety / Military Day Event.

Secretary’s Report: Jeff Fay noted that there are two reports that need to be voted on.

Special Board minutes on 9.7.19 to approve the East Montpelier Gully Jumpers loan.

Pat Poulin moved to approve; Dick Jewett seconded; motion carried.

Regular minutes of the August meeting.

Roger Gosselin moved to approve; Mark Reaves seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sonia Koehler gave a brief report on the financials.

- The year ended well financially.
- Details on the Grooming contingency / overage.

Pat Poulin moved to approve; Mark Reaves seconded, motion carried.

## Old Business

### LVRT Status

- Ken Brown noted that VAST just signed a contract with Blow & Cote to do the bridge decking in Hardwick for the 2 bridges.
- The town raised matching funds and we also used the Northern Borders grant that we got a few years ago.
- We used almost the entire grant for this.
- We have until September to use the remainder of the grant.
- Those bridges will be used for snowmobiling for next winter – 2021.
- \$234,000 for those two bridges – Blow & Cote
- Cindy Locke - The other project we are working on is to find money that is not bike pedestrian money to fix Cambridge to Sheldon, including the bridges.
- We have a meeting with USDA on the 31<sup>st</sup> to talk about possible grant ideas. If we can do it through a different federal source, then we don't have to bring it up to the ADA compliance, so it would be more of a rough trail, which means then we could do most of the trail, except for the 2 bridges.
- We could use some funds that we got from the legislature as our part of the match.
- If we can get it opened up even as a rough trail, the State would take more notice about the people using the trail.
- No surepac, not ADA compliant.
- It doesn't need a lot of work; it was in good shape.

## New Business

### TMA's – Clubs selling them on line on their own.

- Cindy Locke – We are keeping an eye on the processes on how the clubs are selling them, because of the requirement for signatures.
- We will be reviewing processes. Most of the clubs do it correctly.

### Update – Club Financial Reviews

- Cindy Locke – We had 8 audits scheduled, 5 have gone through the audit process and we have audit reports. We had a meeting prior to the board meeting to discuss those reports and how to move forward.
- Mark Reaves – Minor items that need adjustments, check registers, club by laws, policy, mileage report, etc., receipts, more detailed notes.
- Cindy Locke – We have 3 clubs that we've been in touch with; 2 clubs are in bad shape, no volunteers, etc.
- We will work with them on getting organized.
- Once we get them organized, then we will follow up with them in 6 months to see how things are going.
- Pat Poulin – What if we have the CPA firm sit with us so we know what they need.

### Safety Day and Military Appreciation Day – Orange County - Williamstown

- Juliann Sherman – I submitted the application. Event to be held Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Moose Lodge again, but may not be able to use it. It's up for sale.
- If not, then we will use Billtown club house.
- Talk to Bill Bohnyak about expectations, fees, etc.

Mark Reaves moved to approve the grant request for the Safety and Military Day event; Roger Gosselin seconded; motion carried.

### Equipment Grant and Aid Policy Change

- Matt Tetreault – There is information in your packet; page 10 of the Trails Policy Manual.
- The past couple of years there has not been sufficient funding to fund equipment at the full percentage.
- This year I funded some drags at 40% – 45% of the net purchase price. Some people were not happy.
- The Trails Committee has come up with a recommendation that we change the policy for drags to read as follows: as shown in red / underlined in my Trails Administrator report.
- The range would be 35% – 50% of the net purchase price.
- Percentage of grant amount funded shall be equal for all clubs based on the amount of available funding.
- One club at 35%, then all at the same rate.
- Pat Poulin – Did the Committee talk about using the same policy for the rest of the equipment grants?
- For different classes?
- Matt Tetreault – No, it was never brought up.
- Pat Poulin – I think we should think about doing that.

### Safety Ambassador Program Update

- Cindy Locke – We had a great workshop for new / existing Ambassadors. 38 people in attendance.
- 14 new members of the team – 4 old members that have dropped out, 6 could not make it.
- 46 members statewide.
- Klim gave up a 40% discount on the vests
- Pat Poulin – State Police came and gave information on accident investigation; what to do and what not to do, pictures, etc.
- Have some ambassadors at the Safety Day.

### Executive Director / Trails Administrator / LVRT Reports

Pat Poulin moved to approve these reports; Dick Jewett seconded; motion carried.

### Committee and Other Meetings Reports

#### Northeast Chapter

- Pat Poulin – Not much for the Chapter, but USA continues to meet monthly via telecom.
- The next meeting is Nov. 8 in Las Vegas; I will be attending.
- This is the annual budgeting meeting.
- Additional categories of memberships that we might be adding.

#### Multi Use Committee & Law Enforcement Committee

- Gary Nolan – We did take a ride on LVRT to see how much work needs to be done to bring it up to a decent trail.
- Small washout – the clubs fixed it.
- Bridges need re-decking.
- Mike Burns has pictures of the bridges that he will share with Cindy.

- Meetings with the Southern VT Task Force and with the Governor and the F&W Commissioner, Louis Porter, and then an additional meeting with two of Porter's top two officers.
- We got a lot out of the meeting.
- F&W will designate 3 officers to establish 3 different regions around the state.
- We reiterated that we don't want to just sit and do safety checks at intersection.
- We want to get out on the trails and see what's going on. A lot of people are riding at night; have no TMAs, not registered, etc.
- Money will be better utilized.
- Cindy Locke – The state police and sheriffs have been made aware of this change.
- The contracts will be with VAST; we are not paying them any differently.
- We will be paying F&W to set this program up and maintain it.
- Monies will be coming out of Law Enforcement line item in the SSTP, which has \$160,000 in it now.
- These monies can only be used for law enforcement.
- We wanted to update the BOD, as it needs to go to the Governor's Council also.
- Gary Nolan - 4 to 6 mandatory trainings from 1-2 hours each (from Gary's notes / letter ?)

#### Annual Meeting

- Bennington County – To be held at Bennington College, but no details yet.

#### Long Range Planning & Organizational Goals

- Mark Reaves – I'm just starting to look at the notes from the Summit. Will have more info shortly.

#### Trails Committee

- Matt Tetreault – The Committee had mentioned combining the Trails Committee meeting with the annual meeting?

#### Safety

- Pat Poulin – We are going to be ordering some signs to hand out to the clubs.
- These are the 911 signs; let me know what your clubs might need, not mandatory.
- 12 x 18 on the corrugated material.

#### Governor's Council

- Pat Poulin – We will be meeting next week – meeting was actually cancelled.

November meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>, moved up for Thanksgiving.

December meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, moved up for the Christmas Holiday – Holiday Meal.

Dave Ladd moved to adjourn, Dick Jewett seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.