

**VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS – APRIL 26, 2020 – MEETING MINUTES**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Draft**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

President, Tim Mills  
Vice President, Jeff Fay  
Secretary, Jim Hill

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Addison: Lewis Barnes  
Bennington: Vacant  
Caledonia: Ken Gammell  
Chittenden: Pat Poulin  
Essex: Mike Daley  
Franklin: Mike Burns  
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd  
Lamoille: Ellis O'Hare  
Orange: Juliann Sherman  
Orleans: Roger Gosselin  
Rutland: Curt Marechaux  
Washington: Mark Reaves  
Windham: Drew Fraser  
Windsor: Dick Jewett

**ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Windham: Ivor Stevens  
Windsor: Doug Jacobs  
Rutland: Doug Todd  
Orleans: Milo Day

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Executive Director: Cindy Locke  
Trails Administrator: Matthew Tetreault  
Trails Manager: Ken Brown  
Media Manager: Beth Flint  
Office Manager: Cindy Carrier Brown  
VAST/LVRT Associate: Peggy Whiteneck

**GUESTS:**

Patty Companik, Chair, Awards and Nominating Committee  
Carmin Lemery, President, Lamoille County

Tim Mills called the remote attendance Zoom meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

**MOTION:** Lewis Barnes moved acceptance of the agenda as developed. Pat Poulin seconded. *Motion carried.*

### **Secretary's Report**

**MOTION:** Dave Ladd moved acceptance of the minutes of the February 24, 2020 meeting as circulated. Lewis Barnes seconded. *Motion carried.*

**MOTION:** Mike Daley moved that the Board accept the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting be accepted as circulated. Dave Ladd seconded. A correction was noted: Lewis Barnes of Addison County was present at that meeting. *Motion carried.*

### **Treasurer's Report**

In the Treasurer's absence, Cindy Locke noted that there were no surprises in the treasurer's report as circulated. Income and expenses are in line with a shorted season. The report covers the period through April 30.

**MOTION:** Curt Marechaux moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report as circulated. Lewis Barnes seconded. *Motion carried.*

### **Tabled Items**

**MOTION:** Curt Marechaux moved, and Pat Poulin seconded that the Caledonia County TMA update be un-tabled for discussion at this meeting. *Motion carried.*

Cindy Locke reported that Matt reached out to Ben about two weeks ago, followed by Cindy last week. The Caledonia County Club still owes 55 early bird TMAs, all regular season TMAs, and all grooming logs. Mike O'Hara left a phone message that he has overnighted them to the VAST office, but we haven't yet received them over the Memorial Day weekend.

**MOTION TO RE-TABLE:** Curt Marechaux moved and Dick Jewitt seconded a motion that this item be held over as a regular item report for next month. *Motion carried.*

**Consent Calendar** – Nothing to report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **LVRT Status**

Ken Brown gave a status update on the LVRT. The State still plans to take on the construction of the trail. The state's plan is to do the rest of the Hardwick and Swanton work in the next year, with a goal to have the entire trail completed in two years. They are also still making repairs from the Halloween storm.

#### **Long Range Planning Committee**

Cindy Locke reviewed the membership on the Committee, which has been dealing with budget, insurance, and other items that need to be addressed on an ongoing basis. Additionally, the

Committee presented to the Board a proposal for going entirely online with TMAs. The context for this proposal is that 1) VAST lost a lawsuit last year because the plaintiff couldn't read the TMA, and 2) if Covid revisits in the next season, we'll need an online option.

Cindy, Jeff Fay, Mark Reaves, Pat Poulin and Jim Hill presented a Power Point on this proposal, including the rationale for it and how the proposal would affect clubs and VAST financially and in terms of volunteer resources. One plan in the proposal includes VAST subsidizing some of the cost increases to the clubs at least for the first year. Patty Companik asked if the intent is to have the Board bring this back to their counties before the Board votes on it next month. Cindy confirmed that is the intent.

There was discussion on the particulars of the proposal. Zoom meetings and trainings on the change will be planned. Ultimately, a packet of info would be mailed to the clubs before launch in addition to the training. There would also be a large mailing to current members.

Cindy volunteered to present this proposal to county meetings as well via Zoom. She will email the Board members the Power Point and spreadsheets. Cindy noted that VAST will need to help the clubs be resilient in creating alternative funding and this is one way to do that and put more money into the hands of the majority of our clubs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Trails Committee Report**

Matt Tetreault and Jeff Fay reported. There was discussion about a possible moratorium on new or used equipment grants. Instead, the Board agreed that the current policy already gives Matt discretion in allocation of funds: we need to provide for the needs rather than the wants. The Board supports Matt in making these decisions.

Matt indicated there will be a 2.2% Consumer Price Index increase in costs. Maximum grant amount is dictated by that percentage.

**MOTION:** Pat Poulin moved that the Board authorize increase of the maximum grant size to the CPI. Curt Marechaux seconded. **Motion carried.**

The Board packet for this meeting includes recommended changes/updates to the Trail Policy Manual, some of which are required for accounting. He noted that rounding up the number of grooming weeks is now off the table as it doesn't make fiscal sense. Other proposed changes include clarifications to grooming schedule and a cap up to 60% of net purchase for grooming grants (max) rather than basing the targets on time or distance. There was vigorous discussion at this meeting about grooming caps and miles banking with no consensus emerging.

**MOTION:** Pat Poulin moved and Mark Reaves seconded that the Board table the policy manual update as issues related to grooming frequency and how to pay for it need more discussion and clarification. **Motion carried.**

It was then suggested that we needn't hold up the entire revised Trail Policy Manual for this one issue, as Matt may need to proceed with other recommended changes.

**MOTION:** Upon further discussion, Mark Reaves moved and Roger Gosselin seconded that the prior motion be pulled. *Motion carried.*

**MOTION:** Mark Reaves moved and Roger seconded approval of the Trail Manual with the exception of the grooming section that needs further research by the appointed VAST Resource Committee of which the President of VAST will choose those on the committee and their "charge." *Motion carried.* The Board authorized Tim Mills to set up a committee to work on issues related to the grooming section of the manual and related issues in the grooming contract.

Guidelines for Trail Signing and Placement. Staff proposes to change from plastic stop signs to metal ones. It was noted that some counties are already helping clubs with the cost of signage. Need to be set back appropriately so that they can't be mowed down by grooming.

Barnard wants to add four miles to its grooming contract. The purpose of that proposal for a parallel trail is to reduce traffic and wear on the existing trail. Matt Tetreault said he questions the benefit. The county approved the proposal. Dick Jewitt noted that there is already a moratorium on new trail construction.

**MOTION:** Mark Reaves moved and Roger Gosselin seconded that the Board approve the addition of these four miles of trail in Barnard. *Motion defeated.*

## **Staff Reports**

### **Committee and Other Meeting Reports**

- 1) Northeast Chapter and USA – Nothing to report.
- 2) VT Snow Trails Conservancy – Nothing to report.
- 3) Law Enforcement Committee – Cindy Locke reported there was a meeting a week ago and another one scheduled for this week to plan with Fish and Wildlife for next year's law enforcement.
- 4) Multi-Use Committee – Nothing to report
- 5) LVRT Committee – Update already reported.
- 6) Awards and Nominating – Patty Companik reported that 95% of nominations are done and that much of the work for creating the actual awards takes place after nominations are completed.
- 7) Bylaws and Policy - Jeff Fay reported that the Bylaws are currently being reviewed to see if anything needs to be changed to accommodate online TMAS.
- 8) Annual Meeting – Cindy Locke reported that the Annual Meeting will be held September 12 at Forest Field in Waterbury and that we have rented tents to hold the meeting outdoors. Update to follow at the next meeting of the Board.
- 9) Executive Committee – Nothing to report
- 10) Financial – Previously covered in Treasurer's report
- 11) Long Range Planning & Organizational Goals – Previously covered

- 12) Resource Committee – To be activated.
- 13) Personnel – Executive Director’s Performance Review is upcoming soon..
- 14) Trails – Covered on previous discussion.
- 15) Safety – Nothing to report at this time.
- 16) Governor’s Council – Pat Poulin, Chair, reported that the Council met last week via Zoom and reviewed a modest SSTP budget that will be voted on at the Council’s meeting next month.

**MOTION:** Lewis Barnes moved and Dave Ladd seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

***Motion carried.*** The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

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