

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

October 22, 2007

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Steve Fielding-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jeff Fay-Chittenden; Dave Page-Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Currier-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Merritt Budd-Rutland; Johnny Lynds-Washington; Roone Gibbs{**ABSENT**}-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Pat Poulin -President; Jim Hill-Vice-President; Mark Ellingwood-Treasurer; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator; Ann Shangraw-Past President; Kent Gardner-VAST News Editor

GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Star Poulin, Conrad Stewart, Stacey Lynds, Sandy Woodbeck, Don Glover, Alan Towle, Buzzy & Betty Eastman, Mike O'Hara, Frances Pillsbury, Ted Chase, Dave Pistula, Ed Hebebrand, Jeff Newman, Rhonda Bedell, Dexter & Lucille Wilson, Mike Dente, Betty Roark, Eric Page, Mark Reeves, Sue Trottier

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by President Pat Poulin.

AGENDA: *Larry Trottier moved and Brian Cook seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.*

- 9f Lifetime membership
- 9g Law enforcement funding
- 10f Annual meetings-future plans
- 10g 40th Anniversary history of VAST
- 10h Report on SAM show
- 10i Mitzi Oakes and Frisbee story
- 8b Move Executive Session to end of meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Mark Ellingwood moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the minutes of August 27, 2007 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Bruce Murray moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* We ended the year with 95% of the budget expended. We did use some reserves. Steve Fielding questioned the cost of insurance for the Polaris Ranger. Mark Ellingwood will check on it and report back.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *Jim Hill moved and Dave Page seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Bryant Watson presented the Board with information on the Trails Liability Insurance. We have a new carrier this year.

COUNTY REPORTS: **Orange County** has a lot trail work due to all the washouts this summer. There has been some reroutes. **Essex County** has everyone working on trails. All but one club are pretty much ready for the season. **Washington County** has some rerouting on Route 2 that needs to happen around a large transformer. They are also trying to get Middlesex up with grooming this year. **Chittenden County** is recuperating from the Annual Meeting. They are getting ready for their Landowner's Dinner on November 3rd. There is a landowner issue developing in Milton. **Windsor County** is working on trails. There may be closure soon on the Bridgewater situation. They are working also working on the Route 5 trail reopening from Hartland to White River Junction. **Franklin County** has some trouble in Bakersfield from a trail closure. **Caledonia County** is working on trails. **Lamoille County** is working on a reroute in Eden and in Smuggler's Notch area. **Bennington County** is working on trails. **Orleans County** had snow on Jay Peak last weekend. A trail closure by the Deer Yard is being worked on. **Addison County** has trail work starting in the county. A lot of the farmers have not cut their fields yet. **Rutland County** has put in a Bailey bridge. There was a problem in Shrewsbury where an excavator tore up a culvert and so it needs to be replaced. **Grand Isle County** had to sign some forestry paperwork for snowmobile trails on some land near the Dunes Park that was turned over to the state. They are working on a full loop in that area. They are in pretty good shape.

DEXTER WILSON RE: BAYLEY HAZEN: Dexter Wilson requested to address the Board. He explained, in his opinion, why he felt that the Bayley Hazen Club has gotten an erroneously reputation. He reviewed the problems between the club and Caledonia County and how the county put the Bayley Hazen Club on notice without any vote by the County clubs. He read a few of the procedures the committee appointed by Ann Shangraw presented to the Bayley Hazen Club and then read the letter that was sent to Eric Page and the Bayley Hazen Club notifying them of being disbanded. He feels that the County did not properly vote on dissolving the club. He also stressed that all of the discussions in VAST Board Meetings regarding the Bayley Hazen Club were probably discussed in closed sessions as they were not in the Board minutes. He feels that all discussions at the Board level should be discussed in open meetings. Ken Gammell disagreed with some statements. Mike Dente expressed his opinion about major bias actions against the club and asked the Board to address what actions a Club can have with addressing issues with their County Association when they feel they were treated unfairly and that county bylaws were not followed. *Dave Page moved and Steve Fielding seconded for the issue to go back to the County and be resolved there. Motion carried.*

APPROVE UPDATES TO LVRT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND POLICIES: Bryant Watson reviewed the proposed changes including a new position. *Norm Roark moved and Dave Page seconded to approve the updates to the LVRT Management Plan and Policies. Motion carried.* Bonnie Holbrook questioned whether there would be any more positions that we need to plan for and if this position would free up VAST Staff's time spent on the LVRT which Bryant said it would.

APPROVE MAKEUP OF LVRTC FOR THE YEAR: The committee is currently short two members. If we approve Representative Steve Larrabee then there would be one vacancy. The committee is currently as follows: Laird McDowell, Interim Chair & Finance Chair; Zeke Zucker, Vice Chair; Dan Zucker, Secretary; Ken Hoepfner; Red Goodman; Mike O'Hara; Dan Hale and Dan Favereau. This totals eight current members, two vacancies, plus the Chair of the LAC totals an 11-member LVRTC. *Dave Page moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the list as presented. Motion carried.*

APPROVE LANDOWNER REPRESENTATIVE FOR LVRTC: *Dave Page moved and Brian Cook seconded to approve Representative Steve Larrabee, to serve as the LVRTC Landowner Representative. Motion carried.* Bryant Watson will request a letter in writing from Mr. Larrabee.

APPROVE CHANGES TO VAST POLICY MANUAL: Bryant Watson reviewed the proposed changes to the VAST Policy Manual. Bonnie Holbrook questioned VAST paying for health coverage for staff family members. She feels that we need to take into consideration that we are a non-profit organization and that even though we should have optional family coverage available, we should not be looking at paying the insurance premiums for family members. Others expressed their agreement and opinions about coverage. *Ann Shangraw moved and Bonnie Holbrook seconded to table the proposed policy changes and direct the Personnel Committee to come back with more options next month. Motion carried.*

APPROVE PURCHASE OF CAP FOR VAST TRUCK: Jim Hill requested that we purchase a cap for the VAST Truck. The fiberglass caps range from \$700 to \$1700 or so depending on what you want. You can get aluminum caps for much less. There are many options available. John Lynds suggested that we looked around and you can find used ones that are really good and still looking brand new. He got a used one for \$400 that looks like brand new. *Ann Shangraw moved and Bruce Murray seconded that we contact Brian Wells and ask him to get some prices to present next month. Motion carried.*

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP FOR PAST PRESIDENTS: Pat Poulin has looked through the bylaws and it does not address presenting a lifetime membership to Past Presidents which we have done for Past Presidents. *John Lynds moved and David Page seconded that we present Ann Shangraw with a Lifetime Membership. Motion carried.*

LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING: The \$180,000 law enforcement budget from VAST is currently split with 50% going to the State Police, 20% to Fish & Wildlife and 30% to the Sheriff's Association. The law enforcement agencies requested that the percentages be changed. VAST directed them to come to an agreement on reallocating the percentages which they were unable to do. Bryant Watson proposed that we give 40% to State Police, 30% to Fish & Wildlife and 30% to the Sheriff's Association. Fish & Wildlife are allowed to pay for equipment from VAST funding but the other agencies are not. John Lynds asked if we could get the three agencies to provide VAST with budget figures with the breakdown of funds, to provide law enforcement coverage on snowmobile trails. *Dave Page moved and Larry Trottier seconded to split the funding with 40% to State Police, 30% to Fish & Wildlife and 30% to the Sheriff's Association. Brian Cook moved and Steve Fielding to amend the funding to 35% for State Police, 35% for Fish & Wildlife and 30% for Sheriff's Association. Steve Fielding moved and Brian Cook seconded to table the motion and discussion until we have proposed figures. Motion carried. Ann Shangraw abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.*

Norm Roark asked the chair of the Governor's Council to present the request from the Governor's Council for increasing the snowmobile registration to assist with paying for law enforcement. Pat Poulin asked Bonnie Holbrook to read the motion that was made at the Governor's Council Meeting which was "*Norm Roark m/m and Bob Stebbins 2/m to recommend VAST to write legislation to increase the snowmobile registration and earmark that increase for snowmobile law enforcement.*" *Norm Roark moved and John Lynds seconded that VAST propose legislation to increase snowmobile registration for both resident and non-resident by \$10 to pay for law enforcement. {no vote was taken, discussion continued}* Several expressed that a \$10 increase was too much. Some expressed that some of the agencies are not using all the monies they are budgeted now. They also have not been able to agree on the percentages. The discussion in the Council was for the increase to be *in addition* to the \$180,000 already budgeted for law enforcement and not "in place of". *Bruce Murray moved and Ken Gammell seconded to table this discussion until we receive the requested budget information from the agencies. Motion carried.*

PROPOSED CHANGES TO VAST BY-LAWS – CLUB REPRESENTATION ISSUE RAISED AT ANNUAL MEETING: Pat Poulin asked that Bryant Watson give the proposed changes to the By-Laws Committee for their approval and presentation to the Board.

MOVE KITCHEN TO BASEMENT AND RELOCATE STAFF OFFICES UTILIZING KITCHEN AREA: It came up during annual personnel reviews that due to the location of the work station, it is difficult for one of our staff members to get work done because of all the traffic.

Bryant Watson presented proposed changes. Pat Poulin requested that Bryant Watson and Jim Hill draw up actual expenses to present to the Board. Jim Hill suggested we use volunteer labor.

VAST LOGO: Pat Poulin asked that the VAST Logo be added to the agenda. He has received many comments about the VAST Logo being missing from the VAST News. There was a discussion on the EURO and the different logos. There is not consistency with the three different logos. Pat Poulin asked each director to go back to their counties and request feedback. This will be on the agenda next month.

NEW TMA QUESTIONS: Pat Poulin has been asked by members that the Volunteer TMA be counted towards the first two full price TMAs in the Family membership category. *Ann Shangraw moved and Jeff Fay seconded to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Motion carried.* The Antique Snowmobile TMAs will be sold by the VAST office. The TMA forms are expected to be received in the VAST Office by November 5th and then mailed to the clubs and agents by November 12. The Volunteer TMA is considered a regular TMA.

ANNUAL MEETING FUTURE PLANS: Essex County is hosting the Annual Meeting next year. *Bruce Murray moved and Steve Fielding seconded that we use the same rotation schedule that will completed next year. Motion carried.*

REPORT ON SAM SHOW: We had a lot of positive feedback on the new TMA structure. We also had a lot of questions regarding the Family TMA category. There was an antique snowmobile show there too. *Bruce Murray moved and Bonnie Holbrook seconded to extend the meeting for a half hour. Motion carried.*

MITZI OAKES AND FRISBEE STORY: Mitzi Oakes asked if we could send some brochures, newspapers and a box of the VAST 40th Anniversary Frisbees to a group of soldiers in Iraq. *Ann Shangraw moved and Bonnie Holbrook seconded to send the Frisbees to Iraq. Motion carried.*

PROPOSAL FOR COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: President Pat Poulin distributed the committee assignments.

40TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY OF VAST: Is tabled to next month.

Bonnie Holbrook moved and Larry Trottier seconded the Board to go into Executive Session for the request by Caledonia County and include the Board, VAST Staff, Alternate Directors and Caledonia County visitors at 9:20 PM. Motion carried.

Ken Gammell moved and Steve Fielding seconded to move out of Executive Session at 9:48 pm. Motion carried.

Ken Gammell moved and Bruce Murray seconded that we asked the Legal Council what actions we can take. Motion carried.

The next Director's Meeting is November 26th, 2007 at 6:00 PM with refreshments provided by Bennington County. *Norm Roark moved and Steve Fielding seconded to adjourn at 9:50 PM.*

Respectfully submitted by,
Bonnie Holbrook
VAST Recording Secretary