

VAST  
41 Granger Road  
Berlin, VT 05601

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
**December 22, 2003**

**DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT:** Lisa Viau-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia, Jim Hill-Chittenden; David Page-Essex; Jodie Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Wells-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-Orange; ~~Brian Cook-Orleans~~; Barry Bradley-Rutland; Scott Stone-Washington; Roone Gibbs-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Ann Shangraw-President; Pat Poulin-Vice-President; David LaBelle-Treasurer; Bryant Watson-Executive Director; Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:** Mitzi Oakes, Betty Roark, Star Poulin, Jim Holbrook, John Ross, Don Glover, Conrad Stewart, Robert Viau, Roberta Stammers, Sue Trottier, Cobb Lawson, Corrine Lawson, Joel Nowalk and Tjark Aldeborgh, VAST News Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by President Ann Shangraw.

**AGENDA:** Lisa Viau moved and Jodie Ross seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Barry Bradley moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the minutes of November 24, 2003 as presented. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** David LaBelle reported that we took out a loan for \$289,000 to purchase the last 3 Kassabohrer Piston Bully's as agreed. There were two PB 100s and one PB 200. The terms were same as last year. Ann Shangraw questioned three entries for \$222 for Trophy's. The original check was made out to the company when it should have been made out to Star Poulin. Norm Roark moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

**CONSENT CALENDAR – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**  
*David LaBelle moved with Roone Gibbs seconding the approval of the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

**County Reports:**

Jim Hill from Chittenden County has had one land closure on Route 7 in Milton. Other than that, it's going quite well except all the water on the trails.

Lisa Viau from Addison has heard some trails are under water. Conrad Stewart reported that all the trails are not in good shape. There was confusion on the volunteer TMAs and the need to submit a change in their bylaws.

Bill Oakes, Director for Grand Isle announced that they actually have too much snow! They were actually able to get their groomer out and groom.

Ken Gammell from Caledonia County reported that trails are really shaping up even though there is a lot of water. People are working on the trails and getting them in shape.

Dave Page from Essex said to repeat Ken Gammell's report on trails.

Norm Roark of Bennington County reported they have good trails on all the roads but there is a lot of water on the trails.

Scott Stone from Washington County said they have the same situation but also a lot of trees down. Matt Tetrault has been working on the suspension bridge.

Larry Trottier from Orange County has been having the same problems as others with a lot of water on the trails. There is a small issue in Wells River where they want to get to the other side of the Interstate.

Brian Wells from Lamoille County met with Manoch on the ravine. Brian will go over with the D6 and make a trail through the ravine. They are going to get the railroad tracks going. He's been putting a lot of hay bales out and they are having lot

of success. There are some places that he has the hay bales three deep. Eden is having some problems and they will be voting in some new officers. It looks like a property that has not been accessible may be in the future.

Roone Gibbs from Windham County has a lot of trees down and they have some emergency projects that have come up. Roone has another emergency project he is working on tomorrow. They have a lot of water on their trails also. Class 4 grooming is pretty much hopeless at this time.

Jodie Ross from Franklin County announced that the volunteer TMAs were very well received. They have some clubs that have a surplus of Volunteer TMAs and others that feel they don't have enough. They also have a lot of water on trails.

Bruce Murray from Windsor County reported that they have some trail closures.

Barry Bradley from Rutland County shared that they have the water problems too in addition to having a lot of downed trees.

David LaBelle reported on Orleans County and they have some problems. They did not get as much rain as others have.

Conrad Stewart reported that the Route 30 trail still goes only as far as the Little Jerusalem store.

There were no action items at this month.

TMAs – Family Sales: Last month Ann Shangraw asked the directors to go back to their counties and ask about a possible Family TMA. She has heard that there are some families that won't be able to register their whole fleet of snowmobiles because of the cost of TMAs. Dave Page said that they were not going to support the family TMAs until we do something for the landowners. Scott Stone reported that his county is leery because of the policing. Caledonia County also discussed it at great length. If there was some way to control the issue of who is family, then it might be worth investigating. Addison County discussed the issue of family TMAs. They also discussed how to control the family unit. If we lose some of the families then we could lose some of the background experienced volunteers. There are a lot of good reasons for supporting but there is also a lot of trouble involved with issuing a Family TMA. It was suggested that we create a committee to discuss the idea and further explore it. Bill Oakes talked to the folks in Alburg. He got feedback that some of the complaining was from folks that do not attend the club meetings. Bruce Murray reported that Windsor County would like to see it happen but would like the guidelines to come from the Board of Directors.

TMA's – Options for Clubs' Responsibility: – Rutland, Addison, Orange and Washington County felt the bylaws should be the same. Washington also felt there should be some appeal process in the extreme cases. In the case of fire or theft that can be appealed. So if a club loses TMAs due to fire or theft they can submit an appeal. There have been some cases where the driver has signed for packages. Rutland County said that they had several clubs that did not have to sign for the package of TMAs. Bryant has a list of TMAs with signatures. Rutland will be bringing the list of clubs that said they did not sign for the TMAs. We currently pay \$13 for the form and the stickers. It would be approximately double the price to have the application form and the sticker with the same number attached. Bruce Murray asked how we justify that the TMA is lost and the club is responsible for the full price of the TMA. Scott Stone has the impression that a lot of the TMAs are lost between with the club and their agents. A club president told Lisa Viau that he sends TMAs to a store out of state that sells TMAs for them. When the club received the TMAs and money back from the store the money amount was short. When the store was questioned they said they weren't responsible for lost money/TMAs. This will be added to the agenda as an action item next month.

Annual Meeting – Franklin County: Jodie Ross asked if vendors were asked to pay for their vendor booth. Last year the vendors were asked to pay \$100. The committee is thinking about charging vendors and then donate half of the vendor fee to the Make-A-Wish foundation.

Tele-Conference Committee Meetings: Scott Stone reported on the pricing for teleconferencing. Its 22 cents a minute per person for calling in. If you have a 800 number it's 29 cents a minute. This would be much cheaper than mileage. Dave Page said they are using this for trail work reporting committee. Bruce Murray feels that it's not better than the face-to-face but if there are times when this would be helpful.

Potential Trail Closures, Essex County: Alexis Nowalk has been working with Sara Packer who is an Assistant Vermont Regional Forester who is managing the LandVest. The former Hancock lands of about 13,000 acres have been purchased by a family investment company. They have told their land manager that snowmobiling is not part of their goals. After

much discussion with their manager, they have agreed to allow some trails with conditions. They want a 50% reduction of trails on the property. They also want trails not on skid roads to be abandoned. They want a reduction of trails in the eastern section property, which would impact and sever trails for several clubs. The Guildhall club will be without trails for this winter. The State has agreed to help relocate some of the trails. The trails for the Guildhall club are being reduced about 25 percent and they have a leased groomer. We are trying very hard to be proactive and work with this family. There is a legal trail on that property that runs from Derby to Guildhall and to the Connecticut River via the old Stagecoach road. There is a trail that shows a winter maintained road that runs on the property. There are some legislatures that are very upset with this. LandVest and Sara Packer are excellent to work with and are very supportive.

East Haven Wind Farm: Most counties felt that we need to stay neutral. There is concern that if VAST supports this we may have repercussions from landowners. Pat Poulin moved and Brian Wells seconded to move discussion item 9f to an action item. There is a person in the East Haven community that told Ken Gammell he doesn't think VAST should not support the project but stay neutral. The motion was withdrawn.

Samantha Grout and Offer to do Websites for Clubs: Franklin County checked with Samantha Grout regarding the website for clubs. It is only \$35 for three years.

Any Other: There is a group of ladies that are riding from Maine to Michigan via snowmobiles to raise money for breast cancer.

Jodie Ross reported on the Legislative Dinner which is January 29<sup>th</sup>. We have multiple speakers. If we want to bring our spouse then their cost is \$25. The dinner menu is pretty much the same. The times have changed. We'll have a four-stroke sled and a rescue sled on display.

Mitzi Oakes reported from the Safety Committee. We had a really good meeting after the Governor's Council Meeting. Mitzi reported on the findings and presented the Board with a written report. We discussed how we can better utilize the safety trailer. It's very important that we get the list of rescue equipment available. Mitzi has a copy of the letter that she will be sending to all of the clubs requesting information. Alexis Nowalk will be get a list from the trails committee and the directors will get lists from their counties and bring back to the meeting next month.

Barry Bradley read the law for the age of the children and reported that Jere Johnson is not issuing certifications for children 8-11 years old that have passed the safety class.

Pat Poulin moved and Jodie Ross seconded to move to Executive Session with Don Glover. Alternate Directors were also asked to attend. Motion carried.

Brian Well moved and Bruce Murray seconded to come out Executive Session. Motion carried  
Lisa Viau moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to adjourn at 8:17. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
Recording Secretary