

JANUARY 27, 2003

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Conrad Stewart-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia, Patrick Poulin-Chittenden; David Page-Essex; Jodie Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Wells-Lamoille; Ann Shangraw-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Bill Benham-Rutland; Greg Rouleau-Washington; Roone Gibbs-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Ron Bartemy-President; Hal Coughlin-Vice-President; David LaBelle-Treasurer; Bryant Watson-Executive Director; Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Ruth Benham, Star Poulin, Jim Holbrook, John Ross, Betty Roark, Sandy Woodbeck, Maridelle Tomlinson, Andrew Nemethy, Nancy Cook, Mike Todd.

At 6 p.m., President Ron Bartemy called the meeting to order.

AGENDA: Norm Roark moved and Bill Benham seconded to approve the Agenda with the following additions. Add 8g Groomer Rodeo/Nancy Cook add 12A Add an Executive Session item for Norm/Brian moved to have 12a.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Correct sentence Ross Page questioned the foundation item. Correct to read "Bruce Murray questioned the Ross Page Foundation Company item." David LaBelle moved and Norm Roark seconded to approve the minutes of December 23, 2002 minutes with correction. The motion carried unanimously with the change.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brian Cook questioned the third item on page 10, third item. Bryant Watson stated we sponsored the VT Senate Victory Party and that we are strongly urged to participate. Pat Poulin questioned expense item #27973 on page 3 for the trailer. The trailer is registered in VAST name for tax-exempt status. It was reimbursed by Addison County. Ann Shangraw questioned the permits for 12/12 and expense item #27933 for conference for Karen for the Travel Industry Conference. Bryant Watson reported that it is part of Karen's job to attend the Travel Industry Conference. Ann Shangraw also questioned the Travel expenses and tourism for executive director. Pat Poulin questioned the expenses for materials for construction expenses on page 4, item #27984 to avoid sales tax on larger items. The expenses are charged to VAST and then deducted from the Construction project. We should be on track for hitting our 35,000-membership average. We have clubs that have smaller grooming contracts that are actually getting more snow than average. They need to make sure they are aware of how much they spend. Norm Roark moved and Dave Page seconded the approval of the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: David LaBelle moved and Bill Benham seconded the approval of the Consent Calendar as submitted. The motion carried unanimously

PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR INSURANCE - SEN. BARTLETT: Basically what Senator Bartlett wants is to change the statute to say the state will cover us versus "may" cover

us. Bryant Watson reviewed the handout he distributed on the proposed statue change. There will be very important discussions in the committee regarding deductibles for volunteers and for recreational clubs. There is discussion on putting award caps against the snowmobile club and volunteers. Hal Coughlin moved and Brian Cook seconded the Board of Directors to support the proposed amendment. So carried

PROPOSED ACT 250 LEGISLATION - REPS. LARRABEE AND BROWN: Bryant reviewed the Proposed Amendment to Title 10, Chapter 151 of Vermont Statutes Annotated. Dave LaBelle moved and Gregg Rouleau seconded that we support the Amendment to Title 10, Chapter 151 of Vermont Statutes Annotated as presented by Reps Larrabee and Brown. So moved.

PROPOSED CLOSED SEASON: The Board reviewed the letter from Ernie Choquette and the proposed changes he brought forth to the Board of Directors. It was discussed to add under the proposed new regulations fines and confiscating snowmobiles for operation of snowmobiles during the closed season. Dave LaBelle shared that in Orleans County they have voted to not groom until the trails are officially open. Hal Coughlin added that he would like to see wording in there for commercial operators. He also informed us that the ATV group has contracted with Fish & Wildlife for law enforcement for ATV law enforcement. They anticipate doing that with the State Police and other law enforcement agencies also. Hal Coughlin moved and Brian Cook seconded the motion that the Board of Directors approve the concept of the closed season for the Third Monday of December and support the updates on the fines and forfeiture regulations. Motion Carried.

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL COMMITTEE: Sandy Woodbeck reported on the Lamoille Valley Rail Committee. He did not have anything new to report. Sandy asked Bryant Watson how the Rail would fit under the Act 250 legislation. Sandy reminded that we need the support from the legislators for the second half of the trail. Also the proposed new wording for the Act 250 would be helpful if the LVRC falls under it.

OTHER COMMITTEES: Ann Shangraw reported on the Legislative Dinner on February 11. Bill Oakes requested that the presentation be recorded for the Directors to bring back to their counties. Last year's presentation was excellent. Please turn in your RSVP tonight. Spouses are invited to the Legislative Dinner. The cost for the spouse is approximately \$20 for their dinner. There was a discussion on this year's legislation and some of the proposed items. We should all review the information booklet that was used last year to familiarize ourselves with it to be able to answer any questions. Ron Bartemy thanked Ann and her committee for all of their work on the dinner.

FOUR-WHEELER TRACKED CONVERSION KITS: Bryant Watson passed around a picture of the four-wheeler tracked conversion kits. The State of Vermont will not register an ATV as both an ATV and a snowmobile. There is already one person that has purchased one of these conversion kits and taken his ATV to Maine and registered as a snowmobile and then returned to Vermont and purchased a non-resident TMA for it. Ron Bartemy suggested to Bryant that we propose wording for the width of a "snowmobile." Alexis Nowalk shared that the Trails Committee would like these four-wheelers with the track conversion kits not be allowed on the

trails unless they are being used for grooming or trails maintenance. Bill Benham questioned how they would be registered in Vermont. Bill Oakes shared the thought that these may be useful for law enforcement agencies for enforcing the laws in the spring. Hal Coughlin would like to see that we get a legal opinion before we move forward with any movement with this. Bryant will proceed with obtaining legal counsel on this.

Ken brought up an incident in Caledonia this weekend with a Rock Maple #381 sled that was racing along the trails with loud pipes and the skis off the ground. We need to address issues and how we are going to deal with and enforce issues with these sleds that are really souped up with loud pipes and for racing.

THIRD TIME GROOMING: Dave Page moved and Ken Gammell seconded the motion that we authorize Alexis Nowalk to pay clubs above their five-year average for first and second time grooming up to their cap plus 16%. Motion carried.

Alexis presented the discussion. This should be called grooming for above and beyond the second time grooming. Some of the clubs involved had virtually no snow last year and received their subsidies and now some of them have reached their six-week cap. Alexis has included in their grooming payments a report showing how much of their cap they have used and how much is left. She will be sending a notice that they will need to reach their grooming weeks before reaching their caps. Alexis suggested that she send a memo tomorrow that we will not be paying for third time grooming. She will reiterate that they will need to hit their five-year base grooming contract weeks and their grooming contract. The last grooming payment is due to be sent on April 11. Dave LaBelle brought up the issue if we have clubs that normally only groom four to five weeks and if we give them extra grooming weeks from the contingency fund then when we have clubs that normally groom 12-13 weeks and they have extra weeks they will want to get paid too for their extra grooming. Ken Gammell expressed his opinion that every bit of the grooming contingency fund be spent on grooming. He also expressed his opinion that we do not ask for enough money for the budget each year. Dave LaBelle suggested that we take the amount of the contingency fund and divide it by the number of clubs that we have and allot that amount to the club for extra grooming. But if it is not used completely by a club it could possibly put back into the fund for extra grooming.

Hal Coughlin thanked Alexis Nowalk for GPSing several more areas. She has had some help in GPSing. She has made major progress. Ron Bartemy expressed his concern with some commitments that we have to the Forest Service for the GPSing of the trails that are in the wilderness areas on federal land. The Forest Service has conflicting information on the facts and is expressing their pressing desire to get these facts.

Bruce Murray, Ken Gammell and Dave LaBelle all said that Windsor, Caledonia and Orleans Counties collect county dues to pay for extra grooming.

FRIENDS OF SNOWMOBILING: Bryant Watson gave a brief explanation on the Pac that was created called the Friends of Snowmobiling Political Action Committee. They are requesting support from VAST to support FOSPAC with a donation and if we would send a letter to the clubs. Ann Shangraw asked how this differs from the Vermont Coalition. It is a non-partisan Pac.

Bryant recommends that this would best be supported by individuals or clubs and not by VAST as an organization. The directors are asked to take this back to their counties and present. If the counties desire the Board to take action then they are to ask to be put on the agenda of a future meeting.

BRUCE KARR DBA SNO-KARR VT HONEY BEARS ETC. - COMMERCIAL

OPERATION: A section of Corridor 7 has been shut off. The landowner has had repeated encounters with Mr. Karr. The major lawsuit that we still have on the books is with Mr. Karr. Mr. Karr has been cited for other citations that he was able to walk away with free. Barry Bradley, Rutland County Director, encountered one of Mr. Karr's tours and in his tour there were five snowmobiles with resident TMAs on it. Barry Bradley was able to obtain the TMA numbers and reported them to the VAST office. Ron Bartemy has spoken with Bryant to seek legal council to see if we can get a ruling that he is to cease and desist operation of his snowmobile tours. The section of the Corridor 7 trail has been shut off due to issues with the tours. He has been continuing to trespass on land that the landowners have repeatedly requested they do not want his tours operating on. The landowners have told him that he is not to operate on their land. Barry Bradley is meeting with law enforcement tonight regarding this issue. There was a significant increase in dealer TMAs this year.

GROOMER RODEO - NANCY COOK: Nancy Cook with Cook's Equipment addressed the Board. They are holding their annual groomer rodeo. There will be seven manufacturers that will be participating in the rodeo.

SSTP FUNDING UPDATE: Bryant Watson reported on the payment from Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles for the registration and fees and fines.

Any Other issues Bruce Murray reported that he was at a dealer and their liability insurance has gone from \$5,000 to \$14,000. He questioned whether we (VAST) should do anything.

Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. So moved.

THE BORDER-TO-BORDER RIDE: There was over \$100,000 raised on the Border-to-Border ride. Bryant will ask Channel 3 to stress many thanks to the landowners for their contribution to the event.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Nancy Cook reported the purchase of an ice rescue boat.

The next meeting will be February 24, 2003 at 6 p.m. and refreshments will be provided by Windsor County.

Hal Coughlin moved and Dave LaBelle seconded to adjourn into Executive Session for potential litigation. Executive session will include the Board of Directors, Officers, Office Staff and Alternate Directors.

Dave LaBelle moved and Jodie Ross seconded to go out of executive session.

Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary