

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 22, 2003

**DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT:** Lisa Viau-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Patrick Poulin-Chittenden; David Page-Essex; Jodie Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Ann Shangraw-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Barry Bradley-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, Betty Roark, Bill and Ruth Benham, Jim Holbrook, John Ross, Jim Hill, John Lynds, Clem Despault, Don Glover, Tony Mirando, Sandy Woodbeck, Conrad Steward, Maridelle Tomlinson, Scott Stone, Mickey Auclair.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**AGENDA:** Dave Labelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Dave LaBelle moved and Dave Page seconded to approve the minutes of August 25, 2003 with one correction. Motion carried. Add that Merle Young attended as Alternate Director for Orleans County last month.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ann Shangraw moved and Pat Poulin 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 and Greg Rouleau seconded the approval of the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**LOCATION OF TMA AND REGISTRATION DECALS:** David LaBelle reported on the Trails Committee meeting discussion of the placement of the TMA and Registration decals. We had thought the placement of the decals was a law, but it is only a Department of Motor Vehicle rule. The state is willing to work with us on this issue. The Trails Committee is asking the Board to endorse their recommendation to have the decals be placed anywhere visible on the left side of the snowmobile. The Commissioner is the one that mandated that the decals be placed on the left belly pan or the windshield. Then, this past year, it was also added that the tunnel was also an option to place the decals. David LaBelle moved and Norm Roark seconded to support recommendation that the decals can be permanently placed anywhere on the left side of the snowmobile as long as it is not obstructed from view by the rider(s) or saddlebags. Motion passed unanimously.

**HOGBACK HILL CATS CLASS III GROOMING CONTRACT:** The Hogback Hill Cats requested to be on the agenda for approval of their Class III grooming contract. They are a newly formed club located in Addison County and have approximately 21 miles of secondary trails in the Hinesburg and Huntington area. The Trails Committees approved the request. Norm Roark and Ann Shangraw seconded to approve the contract. So moved.

Ron Bartemy presented the Directors award to Roone Gibbs, as he was not present at the Annual Meeting Banquet.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - SUMMER STUDY:** Bryant Watson gave an update on the Summer Study. He has scheduled a meeting for October 9 from 9 to 12 (instead of the October 2 date) to review the recommendations. Mitzi Oakes, as the representative on the Governor's Snowmobile Council, asked Bryant Watson to make sure that in the report it covers the fact that there was a very small turnout of representation from the legislative members. Many of the very ones that requested the study, did not participate in the study.

**ANNUAL MEETING - FRANKLIN COUNTY:** Jodie Ross has at least fourteen people on the committee for the 2004 VAST Annual Meeting. Franklin County is requesting any recommendations and or suggestions from the Board. They are looking at The Commons Sports Center. Roone Gibbs suggested that after we run the cycle of the annual meeting locations that have already been scheduled, that we then rotate the locations of the meetings from north, central and south, instead of running all over the state. Some counties are very challenged with locations. Franklin County is looking for a way to lower the cost of the banquet so more can attend. There were some comments on the Mapp Track group running their rigs all over the parking area and the dealer loading Ski-Doos. It was said that the Ski-Doos were revved up to load and caused a large amount of smoke. Apparently the Mapp Tracks have not paid for their spot yet.

**ISC 2006 REPORT:** Bonnie Holbrook reported on the Congress committee. We will meet again around the end of October. Bryant Watson hasn't scheduled the meeting for him, Bonnie Holbrook and Jim Bauman with the Sheraton. We are working on booking the offsite excursion at Shelburne Farms with a banquet. We are also checking on a skeet shoot the day of the golf tournament for those that are not golfers. On Friday night, when the Iron Dogs have their banquet, we plan to offer a dinner cruise on Lake Champlain. Attendees will have the option to sign up and pay for the dinner cruise when they register for Congress.

**USER POLICY LVRR WORK VEHICLE:** Bryant Watson presented suggested wording. Dave LaBelle moved and Greg Rouleau seconded to adopt the policy as worded for the equipment. So moved. Sandy Woodbeck gave a brief update on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The Ranger is supposed to be delivered this week. Ron Bartemy asked everyone to make sure that we are very careful when wetlands are involved. The Farmer's Association office is working with the

farmers in Franklin County that are in trouble with the Federal government. Apparently the federal government took satellite pictures and found that some wetlands had been converted. Now the farmers have to restore them to wetlands.

**OTHER COMMITTEES:** Jodie Ross asked Bryant Watson if his wife has stepped down as chairman of the Recognition Committee. Bryant Watson confirmed that she has. Ann Shangraw will be appointing a new chairman of the committee. She is reviewing all the committees and there will be changes on some.

Bruce Murray reported that Tony Pitrone, the snowmobiler that hit Mr. Robinson's parked truck in Bridgewater this past winter, has sent a letter that he is going to sue Mr. Robinson for damages.

Ann Shangraw talked about the issue with the club in Washington. She met with the club and they feel very strongly that they did not have enough input in the settlement. The settlement involves their club and work they are going to have to do. The club asked Ann Shangraw to request the Board to address a policy to include input from the club before decisions are made. Pat Poulin commented that if the decisions involve re-routing trails then we should hear input from those involved. Ron Bartemy feels that we need to be careful when restricting policies. Ann Shangraw reiterated that she was not suggesting putting restrictions on the Board but to invite more participation from clubs and members.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Bryant Watson presented a letter from the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts regarding the Bill H.1909 to prohibit the sale of new and used two-stroke engines in Massachusetts. If this bill is passed, it could set a dangerous precedence for nearby states.

Barry Bradley announced that tonight is Bill Benham's last official meeting in his position as Alternate Director for Rutland County. Everyone present gave Bill Benham a standing ovation. There were many thanks issued from several directors and guests.

Pat Poulin announced that a tavern in Malletts Bay helped to raise the money to pay for all of the lost TMAs from the Malletts Bay club that approached the Board last month requesting help. They appreciated the offer of the Board to pay over time but were able to raise the full money from the fundraiser.

Greg Rouleau announced this would be his last Directors Meeting as Director of Washington County. Scott Stone will be the new County Director and Greg Rouleau would be the Alternate Director.

Bonnie Holbrook asked why we had a motion and voted on the policy for the LVRR Work Vehicle when it was a discussion item and not an action item. Dave LaBelle moved and Brian Cook seconded to move item 8d to 7c. So moved.

NEXT MEETING/REFRESHMENTS: The next meeting will be October 27, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. Franklin County will provide the refreshments.

Lisa Viau moved and Greg Rouleau seconded to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Holbrook