

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
August 23, 2004

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Viau-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia, Jim Hill-Chittenden; Dave Page -Essex; John 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, Jim Holbrook, Star Poulin, Conrad Stewart, Sandy Woodbeck, John Lynds, Donna Bryan, Bill Benham

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Ann

AGENDA: Norm Roark moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the agenda as presented with 3 additional items. Motion carried.
10d ATV Collaborative
13a Executive Session

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Norm Roark moved and Dave Page seconded to approve the minutes of July 25, 2004. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Norm Roark moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Roone Gibbs moved and David Page seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried.

COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS: Caledonia County took down a Quonset hut that stored a groomer. They have a piston bully to sell. Rutland County has a booth at the Rutland Fair and is raffling off a snowmobile. Orleans County survived the Phish Concert. It cost the State of Vermont \$35,000 to clean up the trash along the highway. Lisa Viau of Addison County sold 2004 maps for \$5 a piece. They do not have the total amount raised yet. The winner of the snowmobile is from Johnson, Vermont and was Eric Niles. Chittenden County lost a trail in Williston. One of the alternatives is Mr. Lathrop. The trails coordinator for Chittenden County resigned last weekend. Pat Poulin is the temporary Trails Coordinator.

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FINAL CANDIDATES - UPDATE: The interviews were done on August 3. They all pretty much agreed on two of the firms. Because of the price of the two firms, we could hire both firms and will be under budget approved by the Board. By hiring both of the firms, we should be able to cover all the committees in Montpelier that we need to. The price of the two firms combined is about \$35,000. One of the bids we received was for \$90,000. We can not offer a contract to either firm until we get the budget approved by the general membership. Neither of these two firms represents any ATV firms. Ann thanked everyone on the committee that worked hard and spent the time reviewing and interviewing the candidates. Bryant Watson made several calls to both Republican and Democratic representatives and asked them questions about the two firms we are looking at and they are both well regarded. Bruce Murray asked about supporting the Vermont Traditions Coalition. Ann Shangraw personally supports the Vermont Traditions Coalition but does not as VAST President. Roone Gibbs stated that he thinks everyone should support the Vermont Traditions Coalition.

Annual Meeting: John Ross will need the numbers for the banquet real soon. Bryant Watson will take care of obtaining a parliamentarian.

Credit Card for President: Ann Shangraw asked Bryant Watson to put this issue on the agenda. This will be used for travel expenses and purchases as needed in her duties as VAST President. Bruce Murray moved and Lisa Viau seconded to approve a credit card for President. Motion carried.

Officers and Directors Planning Retreat: This is scheduled for November 20th at the Seyon Ranch. They have 8 rooms for that night. Breakfast is planned for 8am with the meeting starting at 9 am. Lunch will be provided and a banquet will be held at the end of the day. Bryant Watson is looking for a facilitator. Typically in the past, we have had committee chairs invited for the long range planning retreat.

Law Enforcement Reports for Winter 2003/2004: Bryant Watson was disappointed in the reports we received. One of the bills that we have received has not been paid yet. Bryant Watson has some questions prior to paying the bill. The State Police have not returned Bryant's phone calls. Pat Poulin thinks the Sheriff's report the easiest to read and understand.

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail: Sandy Woodbeck had two highlights. One of which was in Bryant's report. Last Friday they open bids for removing ties. A Vermont Company came in under the other companies. They had twelve companies interested and eight sent proposals. Hopefully the contract will be able to be signed within the next couple of weeks. We will be fighting the battle to get the monies that the State receives for the ties to stay in the budget to maintain the multi-purpose trail.

Update on Act 250 & Environmental Board Process: There was a meeting last week. The Environmental Board does not have the right to establish rules over ruling the state laws. The Supreme Court has ruled in cases that are above 2500 and the Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff. We have to wait and see how it comes out.

ATV Collaborative: There has been movement on the ATV Collaborative Committee. The ATV collaborative is supposed to be voted in September then in October there will be public hearings. There are 4 dates during the second and third weeks in October. We need a good turn out for these meetings.

ANY OTHER: Bernie Sanders asked for time at the Annual Meeting to give a legislative update. Annual Booklets are on the desk upstairs. All Directors are asked to pick up the booklets for their counties and get them distributed.

Committee Reports: Board Resources – The long range planning retreat is scheduled for November 20 at the Seyon Ranch in Groton. **ISC 2006 Planning** – Bonnie Holbrook distributed a list of committees needed for the 2006 Congress. Each director is asked to find volunteers for the committees. They were also asked to take responsibility for one of the committees. **Personnel** – There is an executive session tonight to discuss a personnel issue. **PR Marketing** – Donna Bryan thanked for Ann for her help. Vermont Technical College (VTC) in Randolph will be creating a video for us. January 17th is scheduled for Governor's Ride in Stowe. Legislative Dinner and Card Room is scheduled for January 20. Handle bar hangers are being developed that will be distributed to dealers throughout the state to put on all sleds with laws and informational tidbits. We will be a sponsor of the Snowmobile Clean Air Challenge. Tjark Aldeborgh is working on press releases to go out six times a year with different issues to media. We need to get more favorable press. A Riders for Reading program is being started. Each club will be given information to purchase books to donate to their local libraries. The books will be for sale at the Annual Meeting. We hope get this will become an annual program. **Recognition, Scholarship, Landowner Appreciation and Volunteerism** – Star Poulin has ordered all the signs and trophies for the annual meeting. They are still working on logos for shirts and hats. Still looking at different prizes for volunteer weekend. They are interested in getting stickers or pins for all entries and they are looking at ideas for the grand prize. **Safety and Responsible Riding Committee** – Mitzi Oakes reported that we have had a really good year. We have worked on charges that Ann Shangraw had given to Mitzi. One of the items is the safety trailer. We are looking at different ways of transporting safety materials if we decide to trade the trailer in or sell it. We are looking at ways to utilize a smaller safety trailer as one of our options. One of the other things is the safety equipment list. Mitzi Oakes sent letters with self-address envelopes to all of the clubs in the State. She has come up with the first draft of the report and she created a database of the information. She has only received 95 responses. Several clubs have not responded yet! It's not too late to get the response to Mitzi. It has been designed to be able to carry in a snowmobile if someone wants too. Also included in the packet is a list of all fire stations in the state of Vermont. She has also put a list of all safety instructors and all clubs in Vermont. Please let Mitzi Oakes know if you have any questions and or would like a copy of the draft. Jere Johnson will be sending out a letter with classes and information needed and the shirts for all the safety instructors. They will be mailed here from the VAST office. Jere Johnson will put together the mailing. Bill and Mitzi Oakes still have Pepsi Banners. Mr. Oakes has set up an organized station at home and will send out the banner and letters when requested. The Courtesy Patrol will be tried this year in two counties. Bob Stebbins has been having a lot of luck in Chittenden County. Washington County will be trying the Courtesy Patrol program and will be working with Bob Stebbins. We will only be trying this in a couple counties. We want to get the word out that VAST pays for the trails and not the State. There is other information that needed to be gotten out to our membership. Star Poulin also reminded everyone that Mitzi Oakes has put a lot of time and hard work into this program. We will have a table at the Annual Meeting. We will have the fatal vision goggles to try.

The Governor has been invited to the annual meeting. He has not been able to confirm as yet but will try to make it.

Addison County will provide the refreshments for the September Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is September 27, 2004 at 6:00 PM.

David Page moved and Bruce Murray seconded to go into Executive Session. Motion carried.

Scott Stone moved and Roone Gibbs seconded to go out of Executive Session. Motion carried.

Norm Roark moved and Scott Stone seconded to accept the recommendations of the Personnel Committee on Bryant Watson's evaluation. Motion carried.

Norm Roark moved and Bruce Murray seconded to adjourn at 8:22 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary