

**VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
**Special Meeting @ Oakes Camp in Grand Isle**  
**July 25, 2004**

**DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT:** Lisa Viau-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia, Jim Hill-Chittenden; ~~Dave Page-Essex~~; Jodie Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; ~~Brian Wells-Lamoille~~; Larry Trottier-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; ~~Barry Bradley-Rutland~~; Scott Stone-Washington; ~~Roene 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, Fred Putnam, Shan Ko, Joel Nowalk, Star Poulin, Conrad Stewart, Fred Cota, Benny, Ames, Sarah Dudley, Dennis Delaney, John Ross

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by President Ann Shangraw in Grand Isle, Vermont at the club house next to the Oakes camp. We will be joining Chittenden County for their annual summer BBQ.

Dennis Delaney, who is running for State Senator, addressed the group. He was a past supporter of snowmobiling and a member of the Chittenden County Snowmobile club. He is running as a member of the moderate Republican Party and is running for State Senator in Chittenden County. He promised to work very hard for Vermont. He is very pro-active for snowmobilers. He feels that snowmobilers are very supportive of the environment and are very good people. He will be supporting our interests and he hopes that we will consider voting for him in September.

**AGENDA:** Pat Poulin moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the agenda as presented with 3 additional items. Motion carried.

9b. NE Chapter Insurance

9c UVM study

9d Fred Putnam – Chainsaw Training

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Norm Roark moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the minutes of June 28, 2004 as presented with 2 corrections. Motion carried.

Add paragraph where we removed the budget from the table.

Addison County Field Days

**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:** Pat Poulin moved and Lisa Viau seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried.

**COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS:** Lisa Viau has raffle tickets she's selling for the Addison County Field Days. The Barre Sno-Bees of Washington County will be helping the safety committee set up a pilot program for a safety/courtesy patrol program. Scott Stone will be meeting with them to discuss this and other items. Larry Trottier reported on Orange County parking cars for the VT History Expo at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds and that Bonnie Holbrook has received the check for it. This is a major fundraiser for Orange County. Chittenden County is supposed to be having their annual meeting following the Board meeting today. There were no reports from other counties.

**Governmental Relations Final Candidates:** The committee will be interviewing candidates throughout the whole day on August 3. The committee has looked very carefully at the proposals. The committee tried to get representation from the smaller companies like Ed Larsen and then the larger companies. That way they (the committee) can weight the advantages between a small, medium and large company. The interviews will begin at 8 am and will probably go through into the evening.

**Forest Plan Revision Meetings – Alternatives:** Ann Shangraw reported that we did respond to the Green Mountain Forest Supervisor, Paul Brewster. Bryant Watson sent a copy of the letter he sent to Paul Brewster to the Board for review and approval prior to sending it to Mr. Brewster. There were some changes in wording that we asked for. Most of the alternatives will either not harm or will only harm a very small amount of our trails. There are some trails that will still be allowed with the addition of a small area of additional wilderness and escarpment areas. Ann Shangraw thanked Bryant Watson for all of his work, time and effort on the proposals. Paul Brewster told Bryant Watson that the intent of the remote backcountry will still allow snowmobile trails. Bryant Watson told Paul Brewster that we need to get this in writing so we don't lose the trails along Glastonbury. Once we see the draft plan in November, we will need to review it closely and then move forward. We need to make sure that we contact agencies and encourage them to make sure that plans are written clearly. The final plan will be released around February or March of next year. We need to find out when the next round of State Forest Meetings are coming up. Bruce Murray asked for a selection of a couple of letters that we can use for a guideline to send to our representatives. It is important that we personalize any letters we send to our senators and representatives. Form letters are counted as one letter unless it has been personalized.

**Annual Meeting:** The price of the annual meeting that got put in the paper did not include the costs of entertainment and expenses. The price of \$18 only covers the cost of the dinner. It doesn't cover any of the costs for entertainment and other expenses of the annual meeting. So we will have to cover the costs from the budget. Jodie Ross reported on the annual meeting. The Collins-Perley Sports Complex is very excited to have us there and is being very supportive. They have gone out of their way to help with the meeting. There will be 3 isles of intercom services. Coffee, tea and water will be available free all day. They have had a lot of support from their county. The Abbey Restaurant group is catering the banquet. Franklin County Snowmobile will be catering the lunch.

**Shirts:** Bryant Watson showed a couple of samples of shirts from Lands End. There are two styles of cuts for the women's shirts. There was also a VAST Board Minutes 7-25-04, Page 1

difference of texture. The men's are available in medium through 3xl and some of the lady's shirts range from ss to 3xl. The price of the shirts fall within the budget approved. The cost of embroidery will be about \$3.00 per shirt. The trails committee would like their names on the shirts. The fir green will be the color for the group shirts. We can order others as our own cost.

**August Board Outing:** The August Board Outing will be the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. The trip will be a kayak/canoe trip on the Lamoille River. Ann Shangraw has the list of what we should bring and where to meet. It will be \$38 per person and should take about 4 \_ hours not including stopping for lunch. She will be calling and making reservations tomorrow. We will need to sign up today. John Lynds will try to accompany us if he can but it depends on how busy his place is that day.

**ISC 2006 Committees & Volunteers:** Bonnie Holbrook reported on Congress. Bonnie Holbrook will be traveling to Salt Lake City, Utah in August for the Congress Planning Committee. Her expenses will be paid for by Utah's 2005 ISC budget. Ann Shangraw will also be going at our expense. Bonnie Holbrook listed the committees that are needed so far. They have been broken down into specific areas in the hopes of attracting more volunteers. We will need the support of each director. Bonnie Holbrook reminded the Board that the decision to submit a proposal to host the 2006 ISC was unanimous so now is the time for each Director to step up to the plate. Ann Shangraw asked Bonnie Holbrook to present a list of committees with a description of what each involves and present to the Board at the next Board meeting. We will then ask each director to chair a committee and then recruit volunteers from their counties.

**Northeast Chapter Insurance:** Bryant Watson met with Jim Jennings from New York. What they need to do is to find out what each NE Chapter club and providence of Canada has for requirements for insurance. They need to find out what portion the clubs provide and what portion the state/providence pays for. Then they will have the information needed to present to underwriters throughout US for bids. Once they receive bids, they will be asking ASCA and CCSO to try to coordinate an insurance policy that would work for all of the US and CCSO. Yves from Quebec is supposed to be meeting with some insurance companies from Europe. In New York, each club has to have individual liability coverage of \$1,000,000. Each individual club has to have an individual policy and can not be included under one umbrella policy. We may be able to get some substantial savings if we can get a policy that will work for all of us. It also may not be able to work out because of international laws and policies. We have a NE Chapter meeting on October 29-30 in Saratoga, NY and will discuss the insurance issue more.

**UVM Study:** Ann Shangraw was contacted by Professor Ceroni of UVM because of our extensive study on trails. They have invited VAST to participate in this lecture. Ann Shangraw and Bryant Watson will be meeting with her this week to explore this further.

**Chainsaw training – Fred Putnam:** The US Forest Service is putting on chainsaw training September 9, 10 and 11 in Pittsfield, VT for VAST. The trainer is coming from Atlanta, GA. They will train trainers and have room for 14 people from VAST. If we hire a contractor to work on our trails, then we are responsible if one of their employees is hurt according to OSHA. If someone is hurt, then one of the first things that OSHA will ask when they come to investigate, is if the person was properly trained and certified. The US Forest Service in Vermont is trying to get a jump on things and provide the training and certification before it is mandatory. Fred Putnam will be putting in the order for the equipment requirements that will be provided for the attendees to use for the training and then take home with them. The cost of the training will be paid for by the US Forest Service. They will send a list with the details of what the attendees will need. They have been working with Alexis Nowalk and Matt Tetreault. The course in September is not quite full yet. Ann Shangraw asked Fred Putnam if we should put a note in the VAST paper to find out how many of our members will take the course so we could have an idea on how many times we need to hold the courses. Fred Putnam thought that would be great. They will put on as many sessions as we need. Currently they (the Forest Service) are working on training the trainers. That way we will have trainers available to train others throughout the state. We have been very lucky not to have any fatalities so far. The course is a very intensive course and involves actually taking down difficult trees.

**Other:** Bryant Watson said that we have been talking about having a Board strategic planning session for our long range planning. Seyon Ranch in the Groton State Forest can handle about 40 people. This will be an all day planning session on November 20<sup>th</sup>. They will have rooms for \$35 a night. We can elect (at our own cost) to spend the night Friday or Saturday or both nights. We need to confirm with Bryant Watson by the end of the week if we want a room reservation.

**Committee Reports:** Alexis Nowalk is going to move the August Trails meeting to Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. She needs to be in New York the following week.

Windsor County will provide the refreshments for the August Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is August 23, 2004 at 6:00 PM.

**Norm Roark moved and Bruce Murray seconded to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
Recording Secretary