

VAST
41 Granger Road
Berlin, VT 05601

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
March 22, 2004

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Conrad Stewart-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 Nowak-SSTP Trails Administrator~~; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Betty Roark, Star Poulin, Jim Holbrook, Roberta Stammers, Don Glover, Maridelle Tomlinson, Sandy Woodbeck, Carl Pettersen, Michael Lori, Greg Rouleau, Steve McLeod, Ed Larsen and landowners: Rob MacLeod and Kate Scarlott

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by President Ann Shangraw.

AGENDA: Norm Roark moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the agenda as presented with additions. Motion carried.

- 9e Landowners from Caledonia County
- 9f Mitzi Oakes Presentation
- 9g Green Mountain Forest Public Meetings
- 9h Benefits of Hiring a Lobbyist
- #11 _ Executive Session Regarding VASA Issues

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Barry Bradley moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the minutes of February 23, 2004 as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jim Hill moved and Scot Stone seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Last year at this time we had 38131. This year we have 32,499 so far. We are about 7,000 under. We are still within reach of the number that our budget is based on. The #2 grooming payment went out about a week ago. Some did not have grooming reports in so those checks did not go out. Ann Shangraw questioned the premium payment for liability insurance for Officers. The deductible went from \$500 to \$15000 for liability. This policy covers employees and officers and any actions these members may take.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: David LaBelle moved with Pat Poulin seconded the approval of the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried. Alexis is on vacation this week.

COUNTY DIRECTOR'S REPORTS: Ken Gammell reported that Caledonia County is doing pretty good. They have already made a lot of the arrangements for the annual meeting next year. Ken Gammell has been hoping that the issues with the Bayley-Hazen club would work out. There is a group in that area that has been meeting and only inviting select people including a meeting at 11:45 on this Saturday. There are only a few select people invited to this one too. John Ross reported that Franklin County is running out of snow and they are working on the annual meeting. Bruce Murray had an issue in Windsor County with a person that created a private trail on another landowner's property but to his knowledge that issue has been resolved. Dave Page reported they still have riding in some areas of Essex County. Some riders are complaining because the trails are only being groomed twice a week instead of the normal daily. Roone Gibbs from Windham County reported that the northern section of the county has riding. They still have winter conditions in the hills with spotty conditions in the valleys. The south end is pretty much shut down though. Brian Cook of Orleans County reported there is still some riding near Jay Peak. There is snow in the outer areas of Holland pond but you have to get out there. The valleys are shut down. Norm Roark reported they received more than 24 inches of snow in the last couple of days in Bennington County! They are grooming and about 97% of trails are still open. Jim Hill of Chittenden County reported no snow and trails are closed. They are ready to elect officers for the upcoming year. Bill Oakes said that Grand Isle County has started mowing their trails and that pretty much tells it all! Larry Trottier reported that the trails are mostly closed in Orange County. One club wants to know why it takes so long for credits to show up on their monthly statements. Conrad Stewart from Addison County reported the trail up on the mountain on the natural turnpike is open to Goshen Dam. They've had a few complaints about riding on lawns. Barry Bradley reported Rutland County got about 8-10 inches in the mountains in the last few days. Scott Stone reported in Washington County that there's riding in Waitsfield but trails are mostly shut down.

Snowmobile Congress Sioux Falls, SD: Bryant Watson opened the discussion on expenses for attendance at the ISC Snowmobile Congress. In the past, Bryant Watson as executive director and the VAST President were voting delegates. Normally we pay for

Bryant Watson and the VAST president's way expenses are approximately \$1500-\$1750. He suggested that we also pay for Bonnie Holbrook's way as she is chair of the 2006 ISC VAST planning committee. There is \$7,000 budgeted for ISC so there is enough to send two other representatives. **Bruce Murray moved and Dave LaBelle seconded the attendees driving receive a monetary compensation equivalent to the cost of flights. Motion carried.**

Bridge Policy: Dave LaBelle reviewed the bridge policy that has been approved by the trails committee. He read the policy as written and added explanations to some points. **Norm Roark moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the recommended bridge policy. Motion Carried.** We still need this liability signed even if there is not VAST money involved.

Canaan Border Riders: Ann Shangraw was approached by the Canaan Border Riders for a one-pass for charity events. We have done this for Snow Fest for Lake Morey Resort and for the Cystic Fibrosis Ride in the past. Ann would like to see some action taken tonight. She asked the Board to work with the clubs for fundraisers like this and for the club to provide extra law enforcement. Dave Page is concerned with the amount of New Hampshire residents riding in the Canaan and Connecticut Valley area already without any TMAs and registrations. This is a fundraiser for a local club and not a charity benefit. Barry Bradley has seen issues with his local club bordering New York. We could try this for a year to see how it goes and put the stipulation in that they provide extra law enforcement. John Ross shared that their club has been approached by Canada to do a combined days ride and exchange one day passes. The club should first get approved by their county and then it be brought to the Board for approval on a case by case basis. Scott Stone wanted it clarified that we are not paying any club and county dues for these special one day passes and that the person(s) obtaining the special pass must have liability insurance. Jim Hill asked if we need to make a policy for this at this time. We should definitely have guidelines and law enforcement. **Jim Hill moved and Bill Oakes seconded that the Canaan Border Riders present a proposal to the Board with guidelines for how they will run the pilot program for a free one-day pass for their fundraiser. Motion carried.**

Annual Meeting-Franklin County: Everything is set. Details will be in the summer edition of VAST News. John Ross distributed a list of hotels available. Ann Shangraw asked if the Board thought we should have some workshops available in the morning. She asked the Directors to go back to their counties and ask if there is an interest.

Orange County-Demands on Volunteers: Larry Trottier introduced Carl Pettersen from Orange County. At the last Orange County meeting, Carl Pettersen expressed that he felt that we have been volunteered to the max. He suggested that we hire someone at the VAST office to help out temporarily to do the trails conditions and to answer the phones. A lot of times it's difficult to get someone to answer the phone in the VAST office and when members call in, they only get voice mail and not the receptionist. Pat Poulin asked if there is someone here that could answer some of the questions. Carl Pettersen suggested that to save time, a person could call in the answers to the surveys instead of having to sit down, fill out the survey and then mail it. Bryant Watson said that he and Alexis Nowalk have had this conversation. They would like to have the major portion of the GPSing to be done so that Alexis Nowalk and Matt Tetreault are not both out the office. We have had some retired members that have volunteered to GPSing. Bonnie Holbrook asked Bryant Watson that don't we have a receptionist that is suppose to be available full time to answer the phones and why isn't she. Bryant Watson responded that Karen Boulanger is full time but not as receptionist full time during the winter season. She is responsible for the registrations that are sold through our agents. We have 9-12 thousand registrations that are processed through our office. Ann Shangraw asked if Tjark Aldeborgh (VAST News Editor) could get together with Angela from the SnoBees. She has some creative ideas and could be very helpful to us.

Washington County-Law Enforcement Issues: Scott Stone spoke about the trail closure issue that was addressed last month and other issues. There was a kid that was riding at an excessive speed and hit a deer in front of a land owner that feeds deer. At the last Washington County meeting, they purchased two snowmobiles for the sheriff's department to patrol with. They are basing their model on neighboring Orange County with hiring the sheriff's department for law enforcement. We need to pursue law enforcement funding from the State. The trail that was closed last month had snowmobilers that ignored the "trail closed" barricade and road through the trail closure. They were found and approached by law enforcement. One of the persons was a NY State Trooper that did not have a valid TMA and who did not get a ticket as he disappeared after admitting that he was one of the persons. The other persons involved did receive tickets. There is also a problem with the "after school" crowd. There are several under aged snowmobilers that are riding without adult supervision and some of them are road jumping. There will be a meeting on April 7th with the parents of the youths that are known to be road jumping, riding at excessive speeds and causing trail closures and issues. Washington County has in their by-laws that they can revoke TMA's. The Sno-Bees are taking active measures to take back their trails from these perpetrators. John Ross suggested that we look at how Canada handles trail patrols. We need to get more VAST members to contact their legislators and ask for their support for increased law enforcement legislation.

VTC-Discussion: There was a discussion on comments made by Bryant Watson at last month's Board meeting regarding VTC. Steve McLeod and Ed Larson from VTC (Vermont Traditions Coalition) addressed the Board. Steve McLeod wanted to assure the Board that VTC is made up of snowmobilers and landowners as well as many others. Steve McLeod asked what was said last month and what the concern is. Bryant Watson said that three legislators approached him and stated that we did not go about the Summer Study and involving VTC on the Summer Study. Dave Page expressed he is against VAST supporting VTC. Ed Larson and Steve McLeod are full time lobbyists. Ed Larson represents several interests groups that he is involved with and that have the some of same problems that VAST is facing, like law enforcement. VTC is looking at ways to work with VAST on issues that are common to both of us. VTC

would like to work with VAST and help each other. Steve McLeod wanted to assure the Board and VAST members that their presence here tonight is to work with and help VAST. Steve McLeod is a snowmobiler and a VAST member. He understands the decision that the Board made to not support VTC financially. He and Ed Larsen were concerned that there were negative comments made regarding VTC and VAST's relationship. They are here tonight to assure the VAST Board that they want to work with VAST and if VAST ever have concerns with issues that VTC may be working on, that they welcome VAST to attend their meetings and/or contact Steve McLeod and Ed Larson and question them. There are many issues that VTC lobbies for that are similar to the ones that Bryant Watson works on in behalf of VAST. If VTC has not been asked to participate in lobbying for an issue that VAST is they do not step in unless one of the groups they are representing asks them to. They would like to work together with VAST and offered Bryant Watson and VAST their (VTC) assistance in lobbying efforts. Their whole mission is power in unity. We need more voices in Montpelier.

Landowners from Caledonia County: Rob MacLeod and Kate Scarlott are here to address the Board regarding the use of the trail that runs on their land in the Walden/E. Hardwick area. They have given permission to have the trail cross their property to instead of a section of rail bed that runs near their house. They do not want the snowmobile trail close to their house so they gave permission to have the trail cross their property further from the house. They have contacted the local club and asked to resolve some issues. The club has put up rope in the field and it was taken down. Signs were put up and then were taken. There are snowmobilers that have run all over their fields. Kate Scarlott reported the trail has been widening to 60 feet at one spot. She and her husband, Rob MacLeod, have spoken with Ken Gammell regarding their issues. Ken Gammell informed them that Ted Chase will be the new president of the club and he will work with them to correct the problems. Ken Gammell has tried to get a hold of Cole Pond Sledgers. Ken Gammell assured Rob and Kate that he and Ted Chase are going to get this straightened out. They are very concerned with the track. They asked how close to a house can a trail go. The track is 55 feet from their house and that is why they are concerned with the trail being located on the track. They asked to have someone from VAST come out and see what has happened to their land from the snowmobile trail. Ann Shangraw asked to have Alexis Nowalk, Bryant Watson, Don Glover, Ted Chase, Ken Gammell and herself to visit Rob and Kate's farm.

Mitzi Oakes Presentation: Mitzi Oakes presented an invitation to the Board to attend the Chittenden County Club summer picnic on Sunday July 25 and to hold the Board meeting in the morning. The picnic will be at Bill and Mitzi Oak's Camp.

Green Mountain Forest Public Meetings: There is a meeting regarding the Green Mountain National Forest on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at Mount Snow. Bryant Watson will be attending. Norm Roark has an entourage of snowmobilers from his area that will be attending. There was a meeting this last week in Middlebury and it was attended by several snowmobilers. There have been some interesting ideas that have come out of these meetings. Ann Shangraw stressed that we need to push for diversified forest management areas. Norm Roark attended a meeting last week with representatives from Senators Leahy and Jefford's office, along with many others. You can still link to the National Forest from the VAST website for the meetings. It's important that we stay informed of these meetings and get as many snowmobilers as possible to them.

Benefits of Hiring a Lobbyist: Do we hire a lobbyist? Do we need to educate all of us on how to lobby? What are our goals in hiring a lobbyist?

What do we hope to accomplish? These are important questions that we (as the Board) need to answer. Ann Shangraw as invited a lobbyist to attend the Board meeting next month to answer our questions. The lobbyist that has been invited is Ed Larson. He is coming as a Vermont Forest Products lobbyist and not as a representative of VTC. He comes very highly recommended by several representatives.

Committee Reports: Pat Poulin moved and Bonnie Holbrook seconded to extend the Board meeting 10 minutes. Motion carried. Board Resources - Jodie Ross, Chair – no report. By-Laws – Norm Roark, Chair – no report. External Relations – Roone Gibbs, Chair – no report. Fiscal Policy & Financial Oversight - Dave LaBelle, Chair – no report. Insurance Review - Scott Stone, Chair – no report. ISC 2006 Planning - Bonnie Holbrook, Chair – no report. Lamoille Valley Rail Trail - Sandy Woodbeck, Chair – Sandy Woodbeck reported that one contract will be for de-brushing and the second will be for removing the rails and ties. They hope to complete this in one season. So hopefully we will have 96 miles of rail bed to ride next winter. The contractor will have to be very careful with removing the ties and rails. Most of the rails will be shipped to China as that is where the most money is for salvaging. He asked the DC Fly-in group to stress the requests to support bills for money from the transportation budget for this. Nominating Committee - Bill Oakes, Chair – no report. Organizational Goals & Planning - Pat Poulin, Chair – no report. Personnel - Pat Poulin, Chair – no report. Policy Manual - Norm Roark, Chair – no report. PR & Marketing Committee - Jodie Ross, Chair – no report. Recognition, Scholarship, Landowner Appreciation & Volunteerism – Star Poulin, Chair – Star Poulin reported they met tonight and talked about the scholarship applications. They need nominations for the annual awards. Next month they will ask the Board to look at some of the scholarship applications. Responsible Riding & Safety Education - Mitzi Oakes, Chair – Mitzi Oakes distributed a report on the Safety Committee. She also distributed 2 VAST pencils to each Board member. Ann Shangraw asked Mitzi Oakes to do the demonstration on the safety goggles next month. Trails - Dave LaBelle, Chair – no report.

Representative Mazur told Ann Shangraw and Pat Poulin that he was going to put an additional \$25,000 into law enforcement budget. Bryant Watson went through the budget line by line and did not see any line items for law enforcement.

Pat Poulin moved and Larry Trottier seconded to go into executive session to discuss VASA issues. Motion carried.
Norm Roark moved and Pat Poulin seconded to come out of executive session. Motion carried.

Rutland County will provide the refreshments next month. The next Director's Meeting is April 19, 2004. **Roone Gibbs moved and David Page seconded to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary