

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
November 22, 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; ~~Reene 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, Star Poulin, Betty Roark, Jim Holbrook, Conrad Stewart, Bill Benham, Howard Smith, Don Glover, Greg Rouleau, Sandy Woodbeck

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

AGENDA: Norm Roark moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the agenda as presented with additional items. Motion carried.

9b.	Board Minutes Technique	10c.	January Director's Meeting
9c.	3-Day TMA	10d.	Decal Placement
9d.	Landowner Incentive Committee	10e.	Open/Closed Season
9e.	Ancient Road/VT Trails & Greenways	10f.	Directors Name Tags
10b.	Annual Meeting 2005	10g.	Insurance Update

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Dave LaBelle moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the minutes of October 26, 2004 Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Norm Roark moved and Scott Stone seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Ann Shangraw suggested that if anyone wants to volunteer to work snowmobile shows representing VAST to leave their name at the VAST office to be contacted. ASCA dues are based on the amount of \$.25 per member.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Dave LaBelle moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried. The amount of mileage reimbursement will go to \$.405 a mile beginning January 1, 2005. Bryant Watson gave each Director a copy of the trails liability insurance binder.

COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS: Bennington County's biggest issue is the date of trail opening. Orleans County has snow on the mountain. Rutland County's only issue is starting date. Orange County reported that construction and signing is pretty much done. Franklin County is in good shape. Chittenden County had their landowners' dinner and had about 200 landowners that attended. Caledonia County is in pretty good shape except a section of trail in the Danville to Peacham area that is in question. Washington County reported that the issue in Middlesex was voted down. The trail will be open and should not be a problem. The Barre Sno-Bees will be going through the Barre Country Club. It will be a one year trial and it will be a VERY sensitive area. They are creating "sensitive area" signage. If this does not go well, the trail will not be allowed through the Country Club and then there will be a big problem with getting through the area next year. Brian Cook said that their club purchased signs from the Windsor County Jail for a very good cost. They (Barre Sno-Bees) are trying to come up with a polite way of asking people to please cooperate in staying on the trail through very sensitive areas. Grand Isle County reported they now have one less club which means that they now have only one club for the whole county. The TMAs and memberships will be sold through one place. Windsor County is fine. The president of the Weathersfield Pathfinders has purchased two flat bed trailers and donated them to the club. Lamoille County is doing better. They will have two-way radios in their groomers this year. Addison County reported they have a sensitive area that they are in serious danger of losing. The club is going to rope the area off. There are some that are renegade riders that hopefully will be corralled with the fencing so the trail can stay open. The club in Ferrisburg is hoping to get a project going to build a bridge to cross the Lewis Creek or to find a reroute. Hopefully they will get this resolved. Rutland County has a local landowner that has purchased a groomer and wants to groom trails when his friends come up.

REVISED GOVERNMENT RELATIONS GOALS AND AGENDA: David LaBelle moved and Norm Roark seconded to approve the revised government relations goals and agenda. Motion carried.

REVIEW OFFICERS AND DIRETORS PLANNING RETREAT: The ones that attended the long range planning retreat felt it was a very good retreat and that we accomplished a lot. We also have a lot of accomplishments to be proud of. We also have goals to work towards.

IRIQUOIS SNO-BEAVERS – TRIAL DRAG – PAT POULIN: Pat Poulin has met with the club and they are working on a strategy to pay for the drag.

OPTIONS FOR HAZEN'S NOTCH SNOWMOBILE CLUB TO BUY LEASED EQUIPMENT: The Hazen Notch has found a bank that will give them a loan note for about 6% for the groomer but the bank wants VAST to co-sign. Bruce Murray moved and Brian Cook seconded that we file a UCC1 form for the piece of equipment and that VAST loan the money at 3% to Hazen's Notch Snowmobile Club. Six yes, eight no and one abstained. Motion failed. Brian Wells moved and Norm Roark seconded to co-sign a loan for the Hazen's Notch Snowmobile Club. Motion carried with two nays.

BOARD MINUTES TECHNIQUE: There was a discussion on the Board Minutes and the degree of content in the minutes. The motion, the second and only pertinent information should be included in the minutes due to the recommendation of our attorney. It will be important for alternate directors to attend the Board meeting in the absence of the Director to carry information back to the counties and clubs.

3-DAY TMA: Ann Shangraw formed an ad-hoc committee to explore the requests we have received for a 3-day TMA. We need cost projections along with identifying the pros and the cons. Dave LaBelle, Pat Poulin, Lisa Viau and Bryant Watson will be on the committee with Lisa Viau being chair. Ann Shangraw asked the committee to have a recommendation for the February Board Meeting.

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE COMMITTEE: Pat Poulin, Alexis Nowalk and Conrad Stewart are on the committee. They are charged to investigate the ideas that came out of our Long Range Planning retreat and to work with Bryant Watson, Ann Shangraw and our Lobbyists.

ANCIENT ROADS/VERMONT TRAILS & GREENWAYS: Brian Wells moved and Lisa Viau seconded that we support this plan. Motion carried. This proposal gives Towns seven (7) years to identify ancient roads. Ann Shangraw asked each Director to give her a list of at least five email addresses from their county of people that will contact representatives when there is a call for contacts for PAL. They will be asked to call or email their representatives and tell them that **as a taxpayer** that they do not want to give up any of the Ancient Roads.

IS IT TIME TO FORM A PAC? PAC stands for Political Action Committee. This is a completely separate corporation and is registered with the Secretary of State. There are very strict guidelines. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, we (VAST) can not endorse any candidate or contribute in any way to an individual's campaign. On the other hand, a separately incorporated PAC can.

ANNUAL MEETING 2005: A while back, we had discussed holding workshops at the Annual Meeting. Please check with the clubs and ask for interest and bring back to the Board. We are talking about holding short workshops in the morning.

JANUARY DIRECTOR'S MEETING: Ann Shangraw asked the Board if there was interest in holding the January's meeting at the Seyon Ranch and include an optional weekend of riding.

DECAL PLACEMENT: There is work on decal placement. The Joint Administrative Rules Committee is an advisory committee and this will not get to their committee until the beginning of the legislative session. Public Safety said they would not begin enforcement activities until the 26th of December UNLESS they get complaints. But we do not know about the other law enforcement agencies. The only legal place for decals is still on the windshield, cowl or belly pan on the left side. We want it anywhere on the left side as long as it is visible.

OPEN/CLOSED SEASON: The closed season was defined with the H397 bill. In the last minute, the bill had some wording changed. With the new wording, there are some years that we would be losing 7 days of our season if we had snow. A letter has been sent to the law enforcement agencies asking them to be lenient to the opening season date. Verbal agreed to be lenient but will not put in writing. They said they will not "call" on it unless they get a complaint. However, if you do get a ticket, it is a \$500 fine! The National Forest is open (providing there is snow coverage) and can not be ticketed because the Federal law supercedes the State law. The law says that the trails are closed from April 16th through the Sunday in December that preceding the third Monday. Representative Peasley has agreed to rewrite the technical law and get it into legislation.

DIRECTORS NAME TAGS: Magnet name tags are available to order for Board Members.

INSURANCE UPDATE: We have trails liability insurance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ISC 2006 Planning – Bryant Watson and Bonnie Holbrook will be meeting in December and setting a timeline for the committee. **LVRR** – Sandy Woodbeck and Bryant Watson have a meeting tomorrow to discuss the trail issues. **Organizational Goals & Planning** – Ann Shangraw has asked the committee to have short term and long term goals for the association. **PR & Marketing** – The committee met last Thursday. They are working on creating a video with the Randolph Vocational School. They also are working on this year's banquet and a legislative ride. A new source for the book for the Riders for Reading program has been found. We can get the hardcover for about the same price as the soft cover because we are non-profit. Ann Shangraw has submitted an application for a full grant from ISMA for 544 books. If we receive the grant, there won't be a charge to the clubs. The date for the Legislative Ride is January 10th. On January 20th we will host the Card Room in the State House in the morning and the Legislative Banquet will be in the evening. The entertainment will be a really cool video we are working on. **Recognition, Scholarship, Landowner Appreciation and Volunteerism** – Members have until December 15th to volunteer and then get the form into the VAST office before the end of December for this year's drawing. Star Poulin has the form and letter application for the VAST scholarship. **Safety and Responsible Riding Committee** chair, Mitzi Oakes reported there was not a meeting this month and at the last meeting we only had 4 people show up. Notification has gone out for the December meeting. The chair of the Governor's Snowmobile council has resigned.

President Ann Shangraw and Vice-President Pat Poulin will provide "Post-Christmas" refreshments for the December Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is December 27, 2004 at 6:00 PM.

Lisa Viau moved and Norm Roark seconded to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary