

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
December 19, 2005

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Steve Fielding-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, Betty Roark, Star Poulin, Jim Holbrook, Roberta Stammers, Conrad Stewart, Johnny & Stacy Lynds, Nikki Simpson, Sandy Woodbeck, Nancy Cook, Howard Smith, Dave Pistula, Dave Brown, Sue Trottier.

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

AGENDA: **Dave LaBelle moved and Norm Roark seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

9b move to 13a for Executive Session due to possible litigation.

10b Make-A-Wish update

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Steve Fielding seconded to approve the minutes of November 28, 2005 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.**

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

John Ross questioned the costs of servicing of machines owned by VAST which was very high. It was suggested that Bryant Watson check into having them serviced elsewhere.

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

COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS: **Rutland County** is good and trails are open. The issues with Route 7a have been resolved. **Orleans County** seems to be pretty good although they had a lot of trees down that had to be cut. They spent \$300 on radio ads asking people to stay off the trails until they open on the 19th. **Chittenden County** is in good shape. **Franklin County** reported they are in good shape too. **Orange County** is also in good shape. One of the bridges in Chelsea for the reroute has not been completed but it's hoped to be completed very soon. Tunbridge rolled their trails this weekend. **Caledonia County** is well. Brian Wells, **Lamoille County** Director, has been chosen to groom at the Olympics. **Washington County** is still dealing with getting trees cut and out of the way. They have a trail closure in Waitsfield. **Rutland County** has a trail closure too and they are looking for a way around. **Windsor County** still has a pending law suit. Windsor County Inc has purchased the groomer from the Chester Club. Their county dues help pay for the groomer. **Grand Isle County** is in pretty good shape. They have a couple of barriers to be removed. **Bennington County** is in pretty good shape and they have been working to cut downed trees. The National Forest trails opened on the 15th as per the law on national forest land. **Windham County** has a trail they need to rebuild because it's so steep. The trails opened at 12:01 am and at 7 am they had a trail closure because of a ogger that will begin logging in that area.

FORM 4-H SNOWMOBILE CLUB UPDATE – JIM HILL: Jim Hill and Stacy Lynds met with the 4-H club representative/coordinators to create a grand plan for the whole state with a possible kickoff in the fall. The 4-H Coordinators are very excited. It was decided that we will start off this season with a group combining Orange and Washington counties. Jim Hill and Stacy Lynds will go to the workshop in January to become leaders. It is recommended that at least one of them attend. The 4-H Coordinators are interested in participating with the Make-A-Wish Ride-In. Jim Hill and Stacy Lynds will be meeting the end of January to work out more details. Jim Hill was asking if others are interested in helping. The 4-H Coordinators are very excited about the snowmobile 4-H club and agreed to the 12-18 year old age group.

BOARD RETREAT SEYON RANCH: Parking at the ranch is available. Bryant Watson will send directions. Everyone is asked to sign up tonight and verify if they want a room.

VERMONT SNOW TRAILS CONSERVANCY (VSTC): New Hampshire has begun their conservation easement program. It cost about \$1500 for NH to set up their project. Ann Shangraw's original plan was going to ask the Board for approval to call a special membership meeting in January to move forward with this. Instead, she is looking for the Board's approval to look at setting up a solid plan to present to the membership at the annual meeting. She would like her, Pat Poulin, Alexis Nowalk and Bryant Watson to work on the legalities and plans. It will take about a year to set this up and cover the equalities. **Roone Gibbs moved and Larry Trottier seconded to move forward with completing a plan for the VSTC to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.** Howard Smith suggested that we need to work on educating membership. Mitzi Oakes asked the Governor's Snowmobile Council to be included in the progress of the proposal.

CORRIDOR TRAIL 17A – DUXBURY – E BOARD RULING: Bryant Watson gave a short update.

MAKE-A-WISH RIDEIN UPDATE: Steve Fielding needs more tickets. Jim Hill has had luck selling the tickets to the clubs. The dates are February 17-19th. Bryant Watson updated on the progress on the planning and the trail to the school that needs to be booked. Vinnie's is booked for that weekend. The price will be kept down for the concert so it will be more affordable.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Board Resources** Ann Shangraw asked for a volunteer to chair this committee. She will talk with Steve Fielding more. The **Landowner Appreciation Committee** will be meeting on Friday January 6th. They will complete what they have started and then will regroup. Bonnie Holbrook, chair of the **ISC 2006 Planning Committee** will call a meeting of the Executive Committee after the holidays. Nancy Cook brought some items from Linda Lee's to show the quality of some clothing options. Sandy Woodbeck reported for the **LVRT Committee**. There will be truck traffic on the rail

ed over the next couple of weeks. They will be putting up barricades sides for the locations of the washouts and barricades. They are putting decking on the bridges. The **Policy Manual Committee** has had a meeting and they have more work to do on the LVRT. The **Scholarship Committee** should be getting in the scholarship applications soon. The **Safety & Responsible Riding Committee** will be hosting a Snowmobile Safety display January 13-15 at the University Mall. Mitzi Oakes has some posters to market the display at the Mall. The trailer hasn't been sold yet but is on the lot. The Pepsi Banners are still available. January 18th is the next The Safety & Responsible Riding Committee. WIZN Radio will be broadcasting from the University Mall at the Safety Display at University Mall. Land Air is planning to do a benefit ride the end of January. The **Trails Committee** is working on the Landowner Permission Form and restructuring it. They are going to add questions if the landowners are "INTERESTED" in the other groups and an easement. It will not be asking permission for those groups to access the land but if the landowner is interested allowing another interest group to access their land on our VAST trails. This will give us information for interest so when other groups approach VAST to work with them. Steve Fielding suggested that we clarify that our trails insurance only covers snowmobiling. Brian Cook suggested that we make a box stating that this is a survey only. Bruce Murray suggested putting the survey box below the signatures so that it landowners won't feel they are giving permission. The Trails committee will meet on Thursday January 19th for a ride. They will leave from the Chittenden Dam and the Board is invited. The **PR & Marketing Committee** reported that on January 3rd they'll host the Card Room in Montpelier. February 2nd is the Legislative Banquet and February 13th is the Legislative Ride. Johnny Lynds asked for a number of 4-strokes that will be needed for the legislative ride. Ann Shangraw asked the Director's to contact their representatives to get some commitments. The PR & Marketing committee worked a telethon for Vermont Public Television. There will be another one in March.

The VAST Annual meeting will be in Barre this year.

Dave LaBelle moved and Larry Trottier seconded to enter executive session to discuss possible litigation with guests to include alternate directors, Dave Brown and Sandy Woodbeck. Motion carried.

Norm Roark moved and Bruce Murray seconded to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried.

Norm Roark moved and Bruce Murray seconded that the president set up a summit meeting to discuss all the policies for the LVRT. Motion carried

CRITERIA FOR LVRT SNOWMOBILE BYPASSSES: Pat Poulin moved and Dave Page to table 13a. Motion carried.

The next Director's Meeting is the Board Resources meeting and retreat. Ann Shangraw will organize refreshments. February's meeting refreshment will be provided by Windsor County. **Pat Poulin moved and Dave LaBelle seconded to adjourn at 9:26 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary