

**VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
**February 28, 2005**

**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 Trotter-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, Conrad Stewart, Bill Benham, John Lynds, Greg Rouleau, Sue Trotter, Sandy Woodbeck, Tjark Aldeborgh

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

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

- 9f Presentation from Mitzi Oaks– Safety Committee
- 9g Law Enforcement
- 9h Long Range Planning Committee reward for landowners
- 9i DC Fly-in
- 9g Decal Hearing
- 10h Ride with Senator Peter Welch

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** **Dave LaBelle moved and Dave Paige seconded to approve the minutes of December 27, 2004. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** We need to tighten our spending. We have a projected revenue loss of \$709,185 from low TMA sales. Some of the loss revenue will be offset from lower grooming payments but not all. **Brian Wells 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:** **Dave LaBelle moved and Brian Wells seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried.**

**COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS:** **Franklin County** reported they finally have snow and there are no issues to report. **Grand Isle County** finally received snow and they have groomed. **Caledonia County Director** reported they have some of the best trails in the state! Everywhere in their county the trails are really nice. **Essex County** is going well and has been able to keep most of the trails open and they report the trails are excellent. **Orange County** is mostly open and groomed. Thetford hasn't groomed due to lack of enough snow. **Rutland County** reports their trails are ride able and in fairly good shape. **Chittenden County** is still light on snow. They would like to see VAST help push the TMA/decals placement issue and get it resolved. **Windham County** reports about 80% of their trails are good when some low snow areas. **Bennington County** trails are running good to excellent. They've been getting four to five inches of snow every other day or so. **Washington County** is going ok. Beware there are some water bars that haven't frozen and there is some ice on the trail. **Windsor County** has snow in higher elevations with some bare spots in the lower areas. They are experiencing financial expenses due to legal costs. **Lamoille County** is in pretty good shape. They've been grooming 7-days a week in two areas of the county. **Addison County** has had some up and downs. There have been some grooming and riding. **Orleans County** trails are open but they need more snow. We need to keep people off the lakes and rivers. We also need people to slow down. Barry Bradley asked if anyone has worked with a watershed area, to please contact him. He'd like some information and advice.

**IRIQUOIS SNO-BEAVERS – TRIAL DRAG – PAT POULIN:** The club does not want to pay for the drag and does not want it. The groomer operator does not want to groom anymore so his contract has been revoked. An agreement was reached with the groomer operator. The ownership of the drag has been transferred to VAST and it needs to be picked up.

**LEGISLATIVE BANQUET:** There had been a conversation about changing the banquet but this year we had a great turnout. So Marketing and PR Committee has recommended that we continue the banquet. This year many stayed and visited after the meal and presentation. There was a lot of great feedback on the film presentation. A lot of the representatives that were there are snowmobilers and a lot of the younger representatives are also snowmobilers. It seemed like a broader group this year. Alexis Nowalk thought the whole day was great with the Card Room and the banquet. We have the Card Room for January 3<sup>rd</sup> next year. This will be the first day of the legislative season.

**CALEDONIA COUNTY REQUEST FOR ALT. DIRECTORS BOARD PACKETS:** **Dave LaBelle moved and Jim Hill seconded to mail the Board packets to be sent to the Alternate Directors that request them. Motion carried.** The alternate county director needs to contact Sarah at the office if they wish.

**COMMITTEE CHARGES – PRES. ANN:** Ann Shangraw distributed the list of committees for this year. She asked everyone to review the list and we'll discuss it next month.

**SPECIAL SIGNING REIMBURSEMENT – TRAIL COMMITTEE:** **Norm Roark moved and Barry Bradley seconded to approve the request for the policy change for special sign reimbursement requests as presented. Motion carried.**

**CLOSURES OF THE TRAIL SYSTEM DURING OPEN SEASON – TRAIL COMMITTEE:** Alexis Nowalk reported that the Trails Committee approved the criteria and the protocol to follow if they want to close their trails during open season. Clubs need to contact the county trails coordinator and then the VAST office. People can call the snow phones for updates. Lisa Viau reminded the directors that she still needs to get a list

of persons that sell TMAs with their contact info. Please submit the information to Lisa Viau. **Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to adopt the policy as presented by the Trails Committee. Motion carried.**

**PARKING LOT PLOWING – TRAILS COMMITTEE:** **Dave LaBelle moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the proposed policy for plowing parking lots as presented by the Trails Committee. Scott Stone moved and Lisa Viau seconded it to amend the motion to carry insurance. Amendment carried with Norm Roark, Brian Wells and Barry Bradley opposed to the amendment. Motion carried.**

**PRESENTATION FROM MITZI OAKES – SAFETY COMMITTEE:** When Ann Shangraw appointed Mitzi Oakes to chair the Safety and Responsible Riding committee, she and her committee were charged with deciding the fate of the safety trailer. The committee has decided that it's in the best interest of VAST to sell safety trailer. This was a hard decision because of all the hard work that was put into it and along with donations and grants. But the safety trailer is hard to use as is due to weight and size. The Committee would like to sell the trailer and put the money into a special fund until it's decided how best to replace it. **Brian Wells moved and Lisa Viau seconded to sell the trailer and put the money into a fund for replacement. Motion carried.**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT:** Due to the number of fatalities this year, Bryant Watson and Ann Shangraw would like to see us increase the budget for more funds this season for law enforcement with the money to be distributed evenly among the State Police, the Fish & Game and the Sheriff's. **Norm Roark moved and Brian Wells seconded to increase the amount budgeted for law enforcement by an additional \$9,000. Motion carried with Rutland County opposed.** Rutland County has seen that most of the State Police in their area are spending their time on the lakes at fishing derbies and not on the trails. There is a big problem with speed and Rutland County has requested law enforcement to patrol with radar guns although none have been seen on the trail. If you have problems with coverage from State Police or have a specific issue you need assistance with, call Lt. Jim Colgan and he will work with you. Norm Roark would like to see the money spent on trail patrol and not sitting on the side of the road. Lt. Jim Colgan's number is (877) 661-1100 Ext. 2207.

**LANDOWNERS REWARD BOOKLET:** Directors are asked to request 3-4 business owners to sponsor a discount booklet with offered discounts they would give. The discount book will be presented to landowners. Please bring back business names with contact information next month. The committee will contact the business owners for sponsorship and the details.

**DC FLYIN:** The DC Flyin is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Jim Hill, Brian Wells, Norm Roark, Pat Poulin, Star Poulin and Bonnie Holbrook are interested in going. More detailed information will follow.

**ANNUAL MEETING WORKSHOPS:** Back in 1998, Bill and Mitzi Oakes created a book of duties and responsibilities for hosting the Annual Meeting and it has been made available tonight. This year the annual meeting will be at Lyndon State College. There should be room if folks want to bring their campers. September 17<sup>th</sup> is the date scheduled. GPSing is a workshop that is frequently requested. How to run an effective meeting is another topic frequently asked for. Chain Saw basics will be the third. We will do these three this year and see how the attendance is.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DRAFT REVIEW:** The committee is looking for feedback on the long-range plan.

**GOVERNOR'S SNOWMOBILE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes were included in the Board packet for the Board's information. There was a good discussion on law enforcement and what could have been different and how to make things better. There was a lot of worthwhile discussion on issues. There should be new people coming on board to cover the openings on the Council.

**ACT 250 UPDATE:** We're waiting to find out if the snowmobile trails are considered public. We are hoping for at least a three year extension. The criterion needs to be set. We hope to get the 10-acre exemption. There was a discussion regarding the extension and what will probably happen if the extension has not been finalized. VNRC (Vermont Natural Resource Council) has been much more active in dragging anyone to the State House to tell their tale of woe whether it is factual or not. There will be discussions on the amount of feet and/or whether the trail on public land can be seen or how close to an inhabited house or camp it is. There would have to be exemptions for getting into services. Kenny Gammell suggested that we get some of the businesses that can't wait for these trails to be built, like the store in Joe's Pond, and ask them to testify to the committees.

**H.334 – ANCIENT/HISTORIC ROADS:** We do not endorse the H.334 bill. There is another bill that is supposed to be coming up that hopefully will be better.

**SENATOR PETER WELCH'S RIDE TO MONTPELIER:** Senator Peter Welch wants to ride from his home in Hartland to the State House. Bryant Watson will be riding the whole ride with Senator Welch. Ann Shangraw and Alexis Nowalk will be doing a ride with the Media partway with Senator Welch and then continue around Windsor, Orange and Washington Counties.

**AMERICAN INCOME LIFE:** American Income Life would like to offer \$2000 of life insurance that does not cost the association anything. The company could put a flyer in the VAST News or they would pay to print and mail 20,000 letters on our letterhead and we would give the mailing to our mailing house to process. They would like to give a presentation to the Board. It was the consensus of the Board that if they do it, then they need to use an ad or insert in the VAST News.

**DECAL HEARING:** We support placing the decals basically anywhere on the left side of the snowmobile. There is an open public comment period until March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please go onto the DMV website and comment favorably.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Volunteer drawing was this weekend. 36 clubs sent names in. There were 566 volunteer names. Star Poulin read the list of free TMA winners. VAST Board Minutes 2-28-05, Page 2

Chittenden County will provide refreshments for the March Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is March 28, 2005 at 6:00 PM. **Norm Roark moved and Dave Page seconded to adjourn at 8:47 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
Recording Secretary