

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

**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 Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary  
**GUESTS:** Mitzi Oakes, Betty Roark, Star Poulin, Jim Holbrook, John Lynds, Greg Rouleau, Sue Trottier, Sandy Woodbeck, Tjark Aldeborgh, Don Glover, Fred Cota, Mindy Gabree, Tom Trottier, Dick & Phyllis Jewett, Brent Tewsbury, Carol Hebert, Howard Smith, Roberta Stammers

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by President Ann Shangraw.

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

10g 3-day TMA  
10h Off Season  
10i TMA Color stickers

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** **Dave LaBelle moved and Dave Paige seconded to approve the minutes of February 28, 2005. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dave LaBelle distributed the updated TMA handout. We have 26,471 TMAs to date which is almost 6,000 less than last year at this time. It makes it roughly 12,000 off the budgeted numbers. **Brian Wells moved and Dave LaBelle seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.** There was a short discussion on the costs for 10' – 100' long bridge designs. The amounts reported in the budget for advertising fluctuation showed amounts down because a lot of the payments are not in yet. Based on projections on how the TMAs came in last year, we could be short between 5,000 or more. We should finish at around 30,000 TMAs for the year. We will have less grooming funds that should help to cover the losses. When we budget for next year, we'll have to take into account the lower revenue and then we'll have to decide whether to shorten budget amounts for other areas and projects. Kathy has a mailing going out this week asking clubs to please get their TMAs in.

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

**COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS:** **Windham County** had good riding this past weekend but after the rain today, the trails are done. **Franklin County** is done! **Grand Isle County** is also done. **Essex County** had a good weekend and they are hoping for one more weekend. **Orange County** is basically closed for the most part. **Rutland County** is green. **Orleans County** has snow on 242 and up on the mountain. A pickup truck went off the road and onto the trail and hit a groomer head on! **Caledonia County** is doing fine but is pretty much washed out. Buzzy Eastman built a trail on Peter Utero's land and had special signs put up saying "welcome to snowmobilers to the Peter Utero family land" at their request. The town of Burke was very receptive to not close the trails in Burke. **Addison County** has a little riding in the mountains. **Lamoille County** reported they are basically done. Eden will groom one more time. **Bennington County** northern part is pretty much done. The southern part of the county is still open and riding with some bare spots. **Washington County** is pretty much done except the park. **Windsor County** had nothing new to report on the Bridgewater situation. **Chittenden County** had a private grooming contractor that decided to quit this year. The equipment is for sale and a club has put a deposit down. One club has lost the president and desperately needs a new president.

**Committee Charges:** Ann Shangraw distributed corrected copies of the committees and their charges including the missing ones. Fred Cota requested that the Bylaws Committee be charged with proposing a bylaw change for the Directors and Officers to receive a complimentary TMA for the year of their service. This caused a discussion which was tabled until later. Essex County reported they wanted no part of it the coupon book as they do their own rewards. Dave Page also spoke to businesses in Island Pond and Canaan that did not want to participate as they do locally for landowners. Rutland County is working on one for their own county. Some of Rutland's membership thought that coupons from other counties further away would not be as affective! Bryant Watson reminded that this is a business concept on expanding business with coupon booklets.

**Awards Policy Changes:** **Scott Stone moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the proposed changes. Motion carried.**

**VT Historical Society (Request to Underwrite VT History Expo 2005):** Ann Shangraw shared that Orange County Snowmobile Clubs have been parking cars at this event for a few years now as a fund raiser for the county. For \$1600 we get our name on the event, the booth and all the literature. Ann Shangraw would like to pass this onto the Board Marketing & PR Committee. **Jim Hill moved and Bruce Murray seconded to pass this onto the PR & Marketing committee to take this on and pay out of that budget. Motion and second was withdrawn. Jim Hill moved and Bruce Murray seconded that we support one of the items on the request to support this and have the PR and Marketing Committee decide which one. Motion carried.**

**Snowmobile Stationary Sound Test:** ISMA keeps working on these tests and folks keep ignoring it and getting trails shut down. Ann Shangraw has asked Bryant Watson to pass this onto the Governor's Snowmobile Council. **Pat Poulin moved and Dave LaBelle seconded to approve the request for Bryant Watson to present the request for the Governor's Snowmobile Council to approve this Snowmobile Stationary Sound Test as an acceptable measure of snowmobile sound. Motion carried.**

**Annual Meeting Booklet (Content):** Pat Poulin suggested that we make sure we have a full copy of the Bylaws in case of questions. We cut them from the booklet last year to save on printing costs. Mitzi Oakes informed us that Sandy Woodbeck began the suggested *Guidelines for Hosting the Annual Meeting* booklet and then Grand Isle County expanded on it.

**NE Chapter ISC Meeting – Discussion:** Pat Poulin said that this one was one of the better chapter meetings that he's been too. They went out of their way to welcome the group. All the businesses in the town of Errol also participated and supported the meeting.

**Make-A-Wish Event Discussion:** Carol Hebert, Mindy Gabree, Brent Tewksbury and Greg Rouleau approached the Board regarding the Make-A-Wish Ride-in in Williamstown. This has been an annual happening in Williamstown for about 7 years now. It began as a function the Billtown Moonshiners did. Then it expanded to include another club and then support from Washington and Orange County snowmobile clubs. They have been able to grant 2 wishes a year. The committee feels that this is a good time to possibly move the event. There are clubs from all around the state that donate and support this event in some way. Make-A-Wish is such an awesome program and it's been very exciting to be a part of the event. This year the Central Vermont Snowmobilers were able to present \$11,500 to the Vermont Make-A-Wish foundation. The reason for the members of the Central Vermont Snowmobilers approaching the Board is to ask VAST to adopt this event. The cost to VAST would be minimal, for example, VAST News ad could be free. The World has provided good coverage for the event. The local TV stations and the Times Argus have not been supportive with coverage. This began in Central Vermont but this could be spread throughout Vermont. It could possible be in different areas of Vermont. It's a great PR event and it's for such a good cause. The money does stay in Vermont. It'd be good public relations for VAST. The first year raised \$750 on a two week notice to organize to \$11,500 this year. Bryant Watson has often thought that we have missed the boat by not adopting a specific charity to support as a statewide charity event. This would be in addition to programs the Counties sponsor throughout the year. **Brian Wells moved and Conrad Stewart seconded that we pick the Make-A-Wish Ride-in as our statewide charity event and Make-A-Wish Foundation as our statewide charity. Motion carried.** Ken Gammell and Bryant Watson will take on the challenge to spearhead the event for this coming season.

**ACT 250 Update:** Bryant Watson gave an update on ACT 250. The clerical ruling from the Environmental Board may be challenged in the Supreme Court by VNRC. If you read the laws, it's hard to argue the point about us not being for a public purpose. Basically under this declaratory ruling, we do not have to apply for an ACT 250 permit unless we affect 10 or more acres of land. Bryant Watson also reviewed some of the issues with the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. In theory, if this goes to the Supreme Court, the Court is suppose to rule if procedures and laws were followed.

**H.334 – Ancient/Historic Roads:** Bryant Watson updated us on committees meetings.

**3-day TMA:** Ann Shangraw asked for the committee to explain the reasons for not having a 3-day TMA. She would like this statement of explanation to be in the VAST News to explain to the membership.

**TMA Color Stickers:** Essex County requested an additional color for the non-resident landowner that gets a resident TMA.

Ken Gammell asked to read a letter from a member of his county, Mike O'Hara. The member made suggestions for a 3-day pass. He also proposed that we request law enforcement to patrol at night. There are some states that use to have 3-day passes that no longer have it. There are some that want a 3-day pass. Barry Bradley had a group of gentleman that came from the UP of Michigan to ride in Vermont! He received a letter today thanking him for such a wonderful time. They said that Vermont gave a great bargain in the cost of the TMAs for the trail system here.

We really need to get the numbers out at the Open House Meetings for the proposed Green Mountain National Forest plan. At the April Board meeting we will have 2 guests coming. At 6 pm, two team members will meet with us on the Groton State Forest Plan. At about 7:00 or 7:30, team members from the Green Mountain National Forest will be here to discuss the proposed GMNF plan. This will be in an answer and questions forum.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Nominating Committee** Chair, Bill Oakes, reported that our current Secretary, President and Vice-President all said yes to run again. Also our current Treasurer said he probably would too. Jim Hill reported that the **Organizational Goals Committee** met and they finished going through their draft update for the operational plan. Bonnie Holbrook reported on the **2006 ISC Committee** and she distributed copies of the timeline. The **Landowners Appreciation Committee** will be meeting soon.

Essex County will provide refreshments for the April Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is April 25, 2005 at 6:00 PM. **Conrad Stewart moved and Dave LaBelle seconded to adjourn at 8:47 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
Recording Secretary