

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
November 28, 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; absent Brian Wells-Lamoille; Larry Trotter-Orange; absent Brian Cook-Orleans; Barry Bradley-Rutland; John Lynds -Washington; absent Renee 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, Conrad Stewart, Stacy Lynds, Nikki Simpson, Sandy Woodbeck, Don Glover .

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

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

- 9a delete the Revised LVRTC Policies
- 9c discuss the Make-A-Wish Raffle and Ride In
- 9d Vermont Musher's
- 9e *Canaan Border Riders
- 10a January Retreat
- 10b Leadership Emphasis/Training
- 10c Board Resources

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Dave LaBelle moved and Dave Paige seconded to approve the minutes of October 24, 2005 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Ken Gammell moved and Norm Roark 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 Barry Bradley seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion carried.** Alexis Nowalk approved the final proof of the maps and they should be here next week. The first start up payment has gone out to all clubs that returned signed contracts along with the groomer contracts that have returned the paper they've filed with the Secretary of the State. The Grooming Seminar is December 14th through VT Interactive Seminar.

Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to move the NH Reciprocity for Special Events to an action item. Motion carried.

COUNTY DIRECTORS REPORTS: **Rutland County** reported they had some brush and trees come down from the last snowstorm. The **Addison County** Director reported that they have had a couple of landowners ask for free TMA passes for opening their land for trails. They currently have three trails closed due because this issue. They are also having a problem with a bridge on a Class IV trail that has been condemned and is affecting a major trail. The trail reroute south of Vergennes is done and ready to go. **Windsor County** has some legal challenges pending. The Bridgewater club officers have some concerns with pending problems. There is no way out of Hartland at this time. **Grand Isle County** did have some stuff brought down on the trail from the last storm. **Bennington County** had quite a bit of blow downs too. They had some hot discussion about the VAST Annual Meeting. They voted to have the Annual meeting in Barre and have the staff organize it. Other counties do not lay the burden of organizing the annual meeting on the VAST Staff especially where it is the responsibility of the County to organize the VAST Annual Meeting. That's why we rotate the responsibility to a different county each year. The County does not have to have it located in their county but they are responsible for organizing it. The staff can not organize it. **Chittenden County** is doing fine. The Hinesburg club is pulling back together. **Franklin County** is doing fine. They have some chain saw work to do. **Orange County** is clearing some trails. The reroute in Chelsea has been solved. **Essex County** has a mess with their trails. They have so much water that the signing of trails has been delayed. Dave Page reported that they have a few landowners grumbling about the Volunteer TMAs and they not getting a free TMA for use of their land and they think they should get one. **Caledonia County** has a couple of closures but the rest will be up and running. **Washington County** has extensive damage in quite a few areas from storms and there is a lot of water on the trails. **Orleans County** had a meeting last week. They purchased a rescue sled for every fire department in the County. They have also purchase radio ads. They will be renting a port-a-john for every club in the County, which makes a total of seventeen!! In Orleans they give two free local club memberships and county memberships to each landowner and then the landowner is responsible for the VAST portion of the cost of the TMA. Their landowners are very appreciative of this. Ann Shangraw noted that the Landowners Appreciation Committee is working with the Governor's Snowmobile Council on landowner appreciation.

FORM 4-H SNOWMOBILE CLUB UPDATE – JIM HILL: Jim Hill spoke with Lisa Muzzy. She had been waiting for the curriculum from Washington County. She is very impressed with the VAST website. She has submitted the information to the state office of 4-H. Ann Shangraw has met with 4-H folks in Washington State and was advised to do this program in conjunction with 4-H instead of on our own.

UPDATE ON VT DEPT. OF LABOR EMPLOYEE RULING: Bryant Watson reported that the fines have been paid. **David LaBelle moved and Dave Page that the Board accept the ruling of the Department of Labor and we pay the fee. Motion carried.**

GROOMER OPERATOR AGE: At the last Trails Committee meeting someone questioned if we had an age limit for groomer operators due to liability issues. After discussion, the Trails Committee recommended the minimum age to be 18 and they do not have to have a driver's license. **Dave Page moved and Barry Bradley seconded that the Board accepts the recommendation from the trails committee and adopt the policy change for the minimum age. Motion carried.**

MAKE-A-WISH RAFFLE AND RIDEIN:

We will be raffling off a Polaris Fusion 600 for \$50 a ticket and we have 200 to sell. The drawing will be at the Lyndon Outing Club on the 18th. Ann Shangraw will mail four tickets to each director and officer. The next VAST News will have more information on the weekend.

VERMONT MUSHERS: For a few years, the Vermont Musher's have been very eager to work with VAST. They know they are operating on our trails and are very eager to work with us on maintaining trails. They will be participating in the Make-A-Wish Ride-in and will be able to give rides. There is a jig race in Maine that weekend so they will not be able to have a race like they wanted to. They are working on a brochure for etiquette and guidelines for Musher's. Ann Shangraw asked us to think about the partnering with other recreational groups, like the Musher's, that are willing to work with us. We could include on the Landowner Permission form an area that we can have options for the Landowners to check off whether they will allow Musher's, cross country skiers and other recreational users. John Lynds has several Musher's in his areas that have worked very well and close with his club. One of the Musher's that Ann Shangraw has spoken with actually purchases TMAs and put them on their sleds.

CANAAN BORDER RIDERS: Dave Page moved and Pat Poulin seconded to allow the Canaan Border Riders have NH riders on the designated area on February 11th for the Poker Ride. Motion carried. However they have to comply with State Laws which requires Liability Insurance.

JANUARY RETREAT: The Board Retreat will be January 21-22nd at the Seyon Ranch. Ann Shangraw asked the Board wants to focus on. This will be the January Board meeting. We will have Team Building exercises along with other short and long term planning. Spouses will be welcome. There are limited overnight rooms available on a first come-first, serve basis.

LEADERSHIP EMPHASIS/TRAINING: Few counties prepare for future directors in case the current director has to step down. We seldom see alternate directors. Ann Shangraw would like the Board to think about ways to get Alternate Directors to be more active. We can have the February meeting focus on getting alternate directors at the meeting. It's up to the Directors to go back to their counties with a positive attitude for the Board and the job they do. Bill Oakes also said he'd like to meet the spouses of the directors and get to know them. He feels very fortunate to have his wife along side him through all the years of VAST. Ann Shangraw asked all Directors to work on getting their alternate directors more involved and be mentors to them.

BOARD RESOURCES: We need someone to head the Board Resources Committee. This committee is responsible for providing training and learning for the Board to be stronger. The Board Resources Committee is also responsible for keeping the confidentiality and conflict of interest statement current.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Board Resources is looking for a chair. The Landowner Appreciation Committee is going to meet with the Governor's Snowmobile Council. Prior to the meeting with the Council, the committee needs to compile information for discussion. The ISC Planning Committee will meet after Christmas. The External Issues Committee is standing by. The Organizational Goals and Planning Committee is closely related to the Board Resources and could be merged. An email/letter will go out with the dates. The PR & Marketing Committee is having posters printed to be colored. They are getting ready for the January session. They are enhancing the video for the Legislative Banquet. The handle bar hangers have been handed out. Chittenden County had dealers that wanted more. The Safety & Responsible Riding Committee chair, Mitzi Oakes, reported that Jere Johnson took the safety trailer back to his office to remove the decals and then took it to Perfection Motorsports. Perfection Motorsports feel that we will be lucky if we can get \$8500 out of it. Jere Johnson has pulled out the AV equipment and wants to know what we want to do with it. He may know someone that may want to buy it. Ken Gammell moved and Bruce Murray seconded that we have the dealer sell the trailer for whatever he can get out it so we can move on Motion carried. Stacy Lynds suggested that we could use the AV stuff for the 4-H. Ken Gammell moved and Steve seconded that we put an ad in the VAST News for the AV equipment and if it doesn't sell it, then donate it to a school. Motion carried. CSS did a presentation to the safety committee on their safety lights. The lights are being tried up in the Newport area this year with some of the law enforcement. They gave ten free units and the committee purchased ten units. These are to be put on sleds. If you see yellow, it indicates more sleds behind and when you get to green, that's the last sled in the group. The University Mall is going all out for us for the International Snowmobile Safety Week and will be providing free space from January 13-15 from 9 AM to 9:30 PM for those three days. The committee voted to approve the purchase of the safety stickers for the law enforcements agencies to use. January 18th will be the next meeting.

OTHER: Alexis Nowalk has extra groomer beacons in her office.

Washington County will provide refreshments for the December Board meeting. The next Director's Meeting is December 19th, 2005 at 6:00 PM. Pat Poulin moved and Johnny Lynds seconded to adjourn at 8:26 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary