

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
March 27, 2006

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; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk(**ABSENT**)-SSTP Trails Administrator
GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Betty Roark, Star Poulin, Conrad Stewart, Johnny & Stacy Lynds, Sandy Woodbeck, John Perkins, Bill & Ruth Benham, Nikki Simpson, Don Glover, Howard Smith, Sue Trottier.

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

AGENDA: *Norm Roark moved and Ken Pat Poulin seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.*

Add after New Business: Board Resources Presentation
9c Action item Sandy Woodbeck. Committee member

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Dave LaBelle moved and Steve Fielding seconded to approve the minutes of February 27, 2006 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

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

Pat Poulin questioned the cash penalties for late county incorporation filings. The VAST office will file the forms in the future to avoid late filing fees. There was a question on News Clips for the VAST News. Bryant Watson responded that there is a news service that we belong to that notifies us when local news is going to write about us. Steve Fielding questioned the three checks for the identical amount for a total of \$48,000 for construction grants. The club has a guarantee for ten years on this trail.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *Brian Wells moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.*

COUNTY REPORTS: **Orange County** has been pretty quiet all year. We had an early start and then were rained out. **Caledonia County** is pretty much closed and muddy. May 8th they will have a landowners' appreciation for the Caledonia Trails Club. **Chittenden County** is working on ideas for the annual meeting for next year. **Washington County** is still waiting for snow. **Windham County** has closed the gates for state and landowners. **Franklin County** reported there was snowmobiling in Eden last weekend but will be shut down this week. The county will be in the Maple Festival parade. **Bennington County** is all shut down. **Orleans County** groomed about 65 miles this morning on top of Jay Peak. This will probably be the last time of this year. They do 15 radio ads thanking landowners. **Rutland County** voted to have county dues which will be dedicated to contracting additional law enforcement. They are looking at an outdoor show to raise funds for their therapeutic pool. In Brandon, there is a blue grass festival. **Lamoille County** – May 8th a steak dinner by Brian with Rusty DeWees. **Addison County** is working on their annual snowmobile raffle at their annual field days. **Essex County** did their last grooming in the northern end. Gates are locked and it's now over for this season. **Windsor County** had their last meeting and election of officers. **Grand Isle County** is waiting for the ice to go out. They still need to pull their stakes. President Ann suggested to the counties to promote a trick or treat stand for Halloween with Club banners and all.

4-H SNOWMOBILE CLUB UPDATE – JIM HILL: Jim Hill looking to get some exposure at the 4-H annual rally. The Board is requested to still talk it up in their counties and try to get some names. Pat Poulin suggested an article in the VAST News. Ann Shangraw suggested a flyer/poster that could be sent to the schools.

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL – Lease Update: Bryant Watson met with Jon Eggleston, Esq. last week. They reviewed the lease section by section. There were some minor things that he felt we need to change. We will provide the House and Senate Transportation and Appropriation Committees with a presentation to present the proposed lease and make sure that their questions are answered. We are not anticipating any work on this "Recreational Trail" this year. We hope to be able to begin next year. We are still working on how we are going to be working the funding and on ACT 250. The committee is also looking at "design to build" process.

ISC 2006 UPDATE: Bonnie Holbrook reported that we currently have 315 registrations for Congress. This includes 17 one day registrations. These also include some volunteer registrations. There are 94 registered for the Dinner Cruise, 19 have registered for the Stowe trip and 2 have registered for the Shelburne Tour. In order to make this a successful Congress, we will have to limit the number of volunteer complimentary registrations. We are working on black congress shirts for the volunteers so attendees can identify us. There is another ISC Committee Chair planning meeting on April 5th here at the VAST office. The office has sent another mailing to all attendees with all the registration forms needed and a notice of the extended deadline of April 1st for the early registration fee. We still need many sponsors. Bryant Watson said that we do have some large sponsorships looming in the background. We really need them to make this work. Ann Shangraw suggested that Counties could help sponsor by sending at least one or two people to Congress even if it's only a day registration. The Directors asked to help promote this. Some question the cost of the registration but if they looked at all the meals they are getting they are actually getting a deal. Jim Hill has some feelers out for some help for the technical sponsorship.

TRAIL CONSERVANCY & VAST BY-LAWS: Bryant Watson talked to Jon Eggleston, Esq. regarding the Trail Conservancy and the VAST By-Laws. He is going to work up a proposal for establishing a trust within our 501c and also a proposal for establishing a 501c entity. He will work up the pros and cons of both. He is going to have some of his people go through our by-laws to make sure we are covering the recent changes for not-for-profit organizations. He is going to work on wording for some control over county and local clubs that would provide some rules and regulations that the county and local clubs have to adhere to. Dave LaBelle suggested that the By-Law Committee submit that the Board Directors and Officers be presented with a TMA while in office.

His name is Charles Roof. He is retired. **Ken Gammell moved and Brian Wells seconded to approve the committee recommendation for Charles Roof. Motion carried.**

BOARD RESOURCES PRESENTATION – STEVE FIELDING: Steve Fielding distributed a copy of his PowerPoint Presentation on S.W.O.T. which stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats. SWOT analysis is an important tool for SWOT. The SWOT will be used by the Strategic Planning Committee and by the Board Resources Committee. Steve Fielding has a website that he can send that you can purchase the software for about \$24 for a site license.

GREEN MOUNTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN: Bryant Watson highlighted part of the management plan that he felt affects snowmobile trails. He provided some copies regarding the management plan. The Management Plan Committee selected a *modified* Plan E. They changed some of the wording. They did give us provisions to relocate an existing trail in the remote areas if needed. There is a trail in Hancock that they felt it would cost a minimum of \$400,000 for an east/west trail that would run adjacent to the route 125 trail and so that was removed. The pink area of the map is *proposed* wilderness area. They changed the plans to help keep our trails that are in place. Bryant Watson wants to put together letters for our Congressional Delegation to carry to our delegates in Washington to accept the proposed plan and not introduce anymore wilderness. Most of the towns voted that they do not want anymore wilderness. This plan gives them a total of 59,001 acres. They want to bring in another almost 28,000 acres to wilderness study areas.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Bryant Watson reviewed some of his report on the ancient roads. Towns will have until July 1, 2011 to put the roads and corridors on the maps. There are other provisions to keep watch of in the proposed legislation. We are working with the legislature to pass the law for the Trails Closed season to be April 16th through December 14th. VAST will make provisions for the once in about every seven years that this will overlap the hunting season.

EQUIPMENT GRANTS: The Trails committee is working on proposed equipment grant changes. There are some other options and alternatives that can be looked at. The transitional period would be a challenge.

FY 2007 BUDGET: We are currently at just under 20,000 TMAs sold. There are a lot of clubs that have not turned any TMAs in yet. Howard Smith suggested the Board look at a way to help the folks that bought an early TMA and did not get a ride. Jim Hill said that we need to take a good hard look at how many people we want to keep the trails for. We still have a multi million dollar commitment that we (VAST) have to pay whether there is snow or not. Brian Cook suggested that we put a report in the VAST News of the dollar amounts for the costs associated with running VAST even if there is no snow. This organization provides services to the members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The **Board Resources Committee** is looking at a camping event the middle of July. We are looking at a place that would have cabins and campsites. They are looking at workshops for the annual meeting. The three they are looking at are; how to create a constructive budget, media presentations and how to make out the paperwork that is required by club officers. **VAST Landowner Appreciation & Incentives** are looking at creating a pamphlet for clubs. The **Fiscal Policy** will be meeting shortly in April. The **Insurance Committee** had a question that Bryant Watson is working on. The **Goals and Planning Committee** wants to look at the goals and planning for the association. Jim would like to have all the directors look at it and give feedback. The **Scholarships & Recognition Committee** received nine applications for scholarships. The five top ones will be sent to the Northeast Chapter. They are working on forms that would use the same criteria that ACSA uses. The **Snowmobile Safe & Responsible Riding** chair, Mitzi Oakes, distributed a written report. The committee is very much in favor of an early registration break. The **Trails Committee** had a ride in scheduled that they actually got to do this year.

The next Director's Meeting is April 24th. Refreshments will be provided by Addison County. **Brian Wells moved and Larry Trottier seconded to adjourn at 8:44 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary