

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
April 24, 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{ABSENT}-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Barry Bradley-Rutland; Johnny Lynds-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-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, Sue Trottier, Rhonda Fielding.

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

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

8e Executive Session (move to end of meeting)

10c Wilderness Bill – short discussion

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Dave LaBelle moved and Dave Page seconded to approve the minutes of March 27, 2006 Board of Directors meeting with corrections. Motion carried.* Correct Sandy Woodbeck's last name and the radio ads are done by Orleans County and not Rutland.

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

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

COUNTY REPORTS: **Caledonia County** held a Landowner's Appreciation Dinner but had a low turnout. They did receive thank you notes from some Landowners for inviting them. **Windham County** Director reported he hasn't heard of anything happening. **Franklin County** is having a Maple Fest parade and some of the clubs are going to participate. **Orange County** reported that the Snow Coasters had a landowners' dinner and had about 15 andowners show and they only sold 16 TMA's this year. **Chittenden County** is looking for a secretary for their county. They are looking at locations to host the 2007 Annual Meeting. There may be a snowmobile show taking place at the Fairgrounds in September. Jim Hill responded to a Bolton Natural Resources request. He has also discussed with a couple of local dealers on how to get more participation from the manufacturers instead of depending on the local dealers. **Addison County** has election of officers in several of their clubs this time of year. They're trying to get a float in the 4th of July parade. They have their annual field days in August that they participate in. **Rutland County's** outdoor show is shaping up pretty good. Several vendors are saying they're going to participate. The Poultney club is having a roaring 20s Landowners Appreciation dinner. Barry Bradley has heard a lot of members saying they've got "caught" buying their TMA's early and then not getting snow. **Windsor County** had their Potluck Dinner and Ann Shangraw, Alexis Nowalk & Bryant Watson came. They voted on their annual budget. **Grand Isle County** had some ATV'ers break down and smash up some of their signs. The County gave gift certificates to all their landowners. Once the landowner brings the gift certificate in to the Pizza Place, then the owner charges the county. They are doing it again this year. It worked well last year and they hope it will this year. They do have a problem getting law enforcement in that area. There is a deputy that wants to help with patrolling and actually went so far as to borrow a snowmobile to patrol with and then didn't have snow. Bill Oakes is praying to Mother Nature that we get lots of snow and that the lake will freeze over this winter. **Essex County** has clubs that have joined their resources for landowner appreciation. The Brighton Club has done away with a landowner appreciation dinner and they now send maple syrup to all landowners. **Bennington County** has a landowner appreciation dinner coming up. **Orleans County** has a few clubs that do andowner appreciation dinners. They'll be having their spring county meeting soon.

Ann Shangraw reported that the New York Snowmobile Association voted on a resolution for all clubs to have a standard club fee. They are also working on a law to require a club membership or pay a higher registration fee, like NH has. They are computerizing their membership application similar to the way that New Brunswick does theirs. The member will have the option of going online to join and then select from the list of clubs which club to join. Ann Shangraw is planning to go over and look at New York's system over once it's up and running. Dave LaBelle suggested that this would be a great tool if we do wind up with offering an early TMA. This will cause some controversy because some clubs feel they will lose the personal touch with their members. However, others contend that clubs will tend to more actively solicit repeat memberships with newsletters and other contacts.

Pat and Star Poulin attended the Massachusetts's Annual meeting along with Bryant and Maelene Watson. One of the things Massachusetts's does at their annual meeting is raffle off a donated snowmobile to the members. Pat Poulin said that he would love to find one for us raffle off to the members that bought TMAs this year. Ann Shangraw said that she would shave her head if we had a new snowmobile donated to raffle off to the members that bought a TMA this year! They also do a Chinese Auction and have a large assortment of prizes donated for it.

EQUIPMENT GRANTS: The Trails committee formed an equipment grant subcommittee a couple of months ago to work on proposed equipment grant changes. Somehow the committee grew over the couple of months. They basically went over four proposals and Alexis Nowalk ran some figures. There was one proposal that was basically agreed upon and then some of the members changed their minds and decided that we needed to run more figures and more scenarios. They asked to table this until further research can be done. Alexis Nowalk is asking the Board to approve to raise the amount of the maximum grant amount from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for a unit. The grant is based on the net purchase price. This will probably affect a just a few clubs that is looking at Class I power equipments. Bryant Watson asked everyone to look at the proposal that he has put together. Pat Poulin said that he does not feel that it is appropriate for the Board to look at until the subcommittee has looked at it. Bryant Watson was instructed to submit his proposal to the Trails Committee for review and not the Board. Dave Page pointed out that we need to be careful and not just push through a policy change. **Barry Bradley moved and Dave Page seconded to raise the grant amount from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Jim Hill and Bonnie Holbrook abstained, Dave LaBelle and Steve Fielding opposed. Motion carried.**

reach this person yet. He has a couple of other prospects he's working on. We need to keep working on this as it is a really good program. Stacy Lynds is still working on folks in Washington and Orange Counties.

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL – LEASE UPDATE: Bryant Watson had hoped to have a final copy of the lease but the State wanted to update the status of a crossing to update or change.

VAST BY-LAWS: Bryant Watson reported that Jon Eggleston, Esq., who is our VAST attorney, is working on the bylaws.

TRAIL CONSERVANCY: Bryant Watson reviewed the letter from our attorney and his recommendations. He has also given this to our tax consultants for their recommendations.

ISC 2006 UPDATE: Bonnie Holbrook reported that we currently have 434 registrations, which are up from 315 registrations reported last month. There are now 208 from 94 registered for the Dinner Cruise, 42 have registered for the Stowe trip and 7 have registered for the Shelburne Tour. And we have 14 registered for the Golf Tournament. Mitzi Oakes has gotten several sponsorships. Orange County has sponsored \$1,000. We still need to actively seek sponsors for the ISC.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Bryant Watson gave a very brief update from his report.

FY 2007 BUDGET: Bryant Watson presented the proposed FY2007 budget in the Board packet. The Budget Committee has not been called together to review the proposed budget. Ann Shangraw insisted that items are not to be put on the agenda until the committees approve them. It is very important that the committees, who are asked to work on proposals, review and approve them prior to them being put on the agenda. That being stressed, the Board will not be reviewing the proposed budget until the Budget Committee has reviewed and approved it.

Wilderness Bill: The Green Mountain National Forest Planning Committee increased the amount of wilderness proposed by about 50% to 27,000 acres. We delivered a letter to our Congressional Delegation during the DC Fly In, requesting them not to designate more Wilderness. However, the Congressional Delegation (Senators Leahy and Jeffords and Representative Sanders) have proposed almost 49,000 additional acres in the Glastonbury area along with other areas originally proposed by the Forest Service. Our delegation says that it only affects "about 2 miles of our trails" when it actually affects more than that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The **Board Resources Committee** is working on the camping trip for the Board. One suggested location is in Errol, NH and the other at the Limehurst Campground in Williamstown. July 22-24th will be the weekend. Steve Fielding will check on availability of the two campgrounds and will book one. Alexis Nowalk will do a presentation on all the paperwork that needs to be filled out. The **Fiscal Policy Committee** will be meeting soon. The **Goals and Planning Committee** is working on the S.W.O.T. and will be bringing more information to future Board meetings. The **Personnel Committee** will be meeting soon. The **PR & Marketing Committee** was reported on by Ann Shangraw. At the Northeast Chapter meeting in NY, she learned of a program that the New York Snowmobile Association has started. They have a trail watch program where they partner with Homeland Security. When snowmobilers are snowmobiling and they see suspicious activity along the border they will report it. New York has developed the program and has given permission to other Northeast chapters to use this program. Our PR & Marketing committee is working on a brochure. Due to budgets, the video and legislative banquet will probably be mostly what they will work on this year. The **Scholarships & Recognition Committee** is done and the selections have been sent out. The awards will be worked on as soon as they all get in. The **Snowmobile Safe & Responsible Riding Committee** will be meeting Wednesday. Ann Shangraw asked Mitzi Oakes to ask the law enforcement to put together how they can enforce the techniques for the decimal readings and how it will stand up in court. We have the law on the books that prohibit after market pipes unless the rider has documentation specifying that it meets the stock pipes.

Jim Hill moved and Larry Trottier seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss the issue with Historic Roads in Bridgewater/Barnard at 8:06 pm with Alternate Directors included. Motion Carried.

Norm Roark moved and Dave Page seconded to come out of Executive Session at 8:22 pm. Motion Carried.

The next Director's Meeting is May 22nd, 2006 Refreshments will be provided by Bennington County. **Roone Gibbs moved and Brian Cook seconded to adjourn at 8:22 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary