

VAST BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
May 22, 2006

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Steve Fielding-Addison; Norm Roark-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jim Hill-Chittenden; Dave Page(Absent)-Essex; John Ross(Absent)-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Currier-Lamoille; Jim Holbrook-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-SSTP Trails Administrator
GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Betty Roark, Star Poulin, Conrad Stewart, Johnny Lynds, Bill & Ruth Benham, Don Glover, Fred Cota, Ted Chase

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

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

9b Safety Committee to discuss the funds of the safety trailer

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *Dave LaBelle moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the minutes of April 24, 2006 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Jim Hill moved and Scott Stone seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* Pat wanted to clarification for the line item for leased parts. The income for the parts is higher than the parts expense because of payments came in after the ast fiscal year end.

CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: *David LaBelle moved and Jim Hill seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Alexis Nowalk is excited that the Construction Seminar is on Wednesday. Alexis indicated that we will receive \$231,600.00 from the Recreational Trails Program grant for 2007, which is an increase from last year! All our trail publications are online now on the VAST website. The Trails Committee had voted on setting guidelines for determining construction equipment costs.

COUNTY REPORTS: **Washington County** has set "excess" funds aside for future "equipment purchases". **Orange County** is done for the season. **Grand Isle County** is working on a reroute. **Windsor County** is in siesta season. **Windham County** has some washouts from last weekend. **Lamoille County** celebrated Dick & Hazel Carpenter from Jeffersonville for their volunteer participation in the County of 39 years. **Rutland County** is going ahead with the outdoor show. It will be Columbus Day weekend. They seem to be getting a better response from vendors. VASA will put on an ATV pull. There will be a large contingency of antique snowmobiles and others. It will be in Brandon, Vermont. **Caledonia County** is done and they finally got their bylaws passed. There are a couple of clubs that are asking for grooming contracts. All is well in **Orleans County**. **Bennington County** is done with meetings. They are walking the trails with the National Forest personnel. **Addison County** has no change. **Chittenden County** is working on 2007 annual meeting.

4-H SNOWMOBILE CLUB UPDATE – JIM HILL: Jim Hill is still working on a group in the Cabot area. We still need to get names for Jim Hill and Stacy Lynds.

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL – LEASE UPDATE: Bryant Watson read the specifics from his Executive Director's Report on the criteria for matching funds. It will probably be hardest for small local companies to bid on work due to bonding requirements. It would be nice if VTRANS would work with us on the criteria so local companies have a chance to bid. We would like to keep the work in state with our local businesses.

VAST BY-LAWS: Bryant Watson reported that structures and TMA's are the main concerns our Legislative group has. We need to firmly state in the bylaws that all County clubs are a subsidiary of VAST. Clubs will become affiliate members of the County Snowmobile clubs. It will probably take about 15 hours of legal work which amounts to about \$3,000. Bryant Watson needs to review the proposed changes with the Bylaws Committee. The attorney is looking at creating a standard set of bylaws for the counties for minimum bylaws. Counties could then add to the bylaws or create articles of association for their individual clubs as long as they meet the VAST minimum requirements. Ann Shangraw suggested that we table this for now. We will revisit the issue after the Bylaws Committee has a chance to review it.

TRAIL CONSERVANCY: The Landowner Appreciation Committee did not have an update.

ISC 2006 UPDATE: Bonnie Holbrook reported that we currently have 487 registrations. Bryant Watson did a Congress report in his Executive Director report, so Bonnie Holbrook did not feel she needed to repeat. The Planning Committee will be meeting on Thursday of this week. The Executive Committee will be meeting again on Sunday night prior to the Congress. On Tuesday of Congress week, we'll be stuffing the Congress bags. Steve Fielding asked if we are still going to hold the golf tournament even though we only have 19 registered. Bryant Watson indicated that the tournament will be held for those who have registered to participate.

HISTORIC ROADS: Bryant Watson reviewed the legislation passed at the last minute. The towns are going to be responsible for mapping every road and trail. We need to work with the clubs to get all the snowmobile trails shown on the maps.

PROPOSED TRAIL CHANGES: The Trails Committee reviewed and approved the requests from the clubs requesting grooming contract changes. Alexis Nowalk recapped each request for the Board. The Trails Committee approved all the requests and they request the Board to approve the requests. *Norm Roark moved and Bruce Murray seconded to approve the requests for the changes as approved by the Trails Committee. Motion carried.*

the Safety Committee for replacing the needs of the trailer. Ann Shangraw asked Bryant Watson to add a line item for safety trailer/options. We received \$6500 from the sale of the trailer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The **Board Resources Committee** is working on a campground in Vergennes for the Board camping trip. They have camps and trailer sites available. The camping trip will be July 21, 22 & 23rd. You need to bring your own linens for the cabins. **Lamoille Valley Recreational Rail Trail Committee** is now chaired by Ted Chase. Ted Chase from Joe's Pond is trying to humbly fill shoes vacated by Sandy Woodbeck. Ted Chase is in the process of manning the eleven man committee and he is keeping Pat Poulin informed. Ted Chase is looking for snowmobilers and non-snowmobilers for the committee. He is trying to balance the members out geographically. The **Insurance Review Committee** reported that committee members are covered under the D&O (Director's & Officers) policy. The **Nominating Committee** reported that Bonnie Holbrook will run again for the Recording Secretary. Dave LaBelle will not be seeking nor will he accept a nomination for Treasurer. Bill Oakes is waiting for word for the President and Vice President positions. The **Personnel Committee** met on the 9th and will meet again after Congress. The **PR & Marketing Committee** will need to make decisions in the near future. It does not look like Donna will be returning. The committee needs to look at what they want to commit too. We are also committed to Doe Camp for a sponsorship. The Trail Watch program will be introduced on Wednesday night. The **Scholarships & Recognition Committee** is done. The awards will be worked on as soon as they all get in. Unofficially we may have a winner for the Northeast Chapter scholarship. They are talking about getting something in the VAST News to get some recognition of some for our volunteers. The **Snowmobile Safe & Responsible Riding Committee** met Wednesday. Mitzi Oakes asked Bryant Watson if there is a sales commission for the Perfection Motorsports. He didn't know but will check. Safety Classes were down this year. There will be some new venues for next year. We had an informal safety committee meeting due to the Governor's Snowmobile Council. Senator Bobby Starr and Representative Steven Green, who were appointed to the Governor's Snowmobile Council, did not attend one meeting the whole year. The next Safety Meeting will be after the annual meeting. The next Governor's Snowmobile Council will be June 19th. Ann Shangraw had asked Mitzi Oakes to ask the law enforcement to put together how they can enforce the techniques for the decibel 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. The Safety Committee and the Governor's Council both discussed this and they are going to work on it. It was felt that some law enforcement officers need training for citations to hold up in court. Ann Shangraw asked Mitzi Oakes to work with our Dealer of the Year to work with the law enforcement on training for decibel readings.

FY2007 BUDGET: Based on experience we've had the last couple of years. We have based this proposed budget on 30,000 members. We are raising the amount of the TMA that is allocated to the VAST General budget. There are some suggested payroll increases. The benefits go up proportionally. Some line items have been increased due to rising costs. Some line items have been reduced to help offset the rising costs of other line items that can not be avoided. The total overall variance in the General budget is approximately \$800. The proposed Budget for FY07 is about \$60,000 less than the approved budget for FY06. Pat Poulin requested that if we are going to sponsor a fundraiser like Make-A-Wish, we need to see an accounting the expenses and income and that we set a budget. Scott Stone has the information on the ride in for this year and will present a report to the Board. The VT Trails Grant is zeroed out this year as we have not been applying for it. We've had to lower the Trails Fund Budget for many line items. A lot of these figures are based on the history of expenses for the last couple of years. The Lease Equipment line items have been decreased. The item for Equipment Grants is lowered which caused discussion. The line item for the Trail Impact Studies has been zeroed out. Ann Shangraw and many Board members disagreed with the Fiscal Committee about removing the line item. Johnny Lynds requested that if the Trail Impact Study is not going to be done, then the \$33,000 be reimbursed to the Commercial Operators that paid this. The sole reason for the Trails Impact Studies was suggested at the Annual Meeting at Killington and it was agreed that the Commercial Operators would pay \$33,000 for an Impact Study. This has not been done. Ann Shangraw contacted VTC to see if they would do the study but they were not interested. To date we have not been able to make the study happen. The Fiscal Committee was instructed to put the \$33,000 line item back into the budget for the Trails Impact Study. Scott Stone asked that we move that line item to encumbered funds to show the commitment that we are still going to try this. We have \$55,000 set aside for the Lamoille Valley Recreational Trail and other recreational use groups have not stepped up to the plate, including help from the State. Pat Poulin questioned the trail counter expenses. The ones we purchased for Lamoille Valley Rail Trail were purchased two for each of the three counties along the trail. Bruce Murray asked about the six-wheeler that was purchased for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. We will be using the six-wheeler for trail maintenance once the LVRT is open. This trail will be used to connect to other trails. Pat Poulin opened the discussion on offering an incentive for purchasing an early TMA. The membership will be voting on the budget and the Board sets the TMA price. We want to hold the TMA prices down. We need to get income from the TMA sales in sooner. It was suggested that the TMA price will be set until a deadline with the Clubs having to submit the TMA paperwork and monies by a deadline. Johnny Lynds suggested that we need to make it "more sexy" to sell the idea. We need to make it positive, and not a negative or ultimatum. The Fiscal Committee has been charged with the creating a proposal for this.

The next Director's Meeting is June 26th, 2006 with refreshments will be provided by Caledonia County. **Scott Stone moved and David LaBelle seconded to adjourn at 8:22 PM. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Holbrook
Recording Secretary