

Board of Directors' Meetings

January 28, 2008

DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES & STAFF PRESENT: Steve Fielding-Addison; John Perkins-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jeff Fay-Chittenden; Dave Page-Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Wells-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Merritt Budd-Rutland; Johnny Lynds-Washington; Roone Gibbs-Windham; Bruce Murray-Windsor; Pat Poulin -President; Jim Hill-Vice-President; Mark Ellingwood-Treasurer; Bonnie Holbrook-Recording Secretary; Bryant Watson-Executive Director, Alexis Nowalk-SSTP Trails Administrator; Kent Gardner-VAST News Editor, Ann Shangraw-Past President
GUESTS: Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Star Poulin, Conrad Stewart, Dexter & Lucille Wilson, Ed Hebebrand, Mark Reeves, Mike O'Hara, Frances Pillsbury, Stacy Lynds, Josh Nelson, Howard Smith, Joe Cicia, Brian Cur, Sandy Woodbeck, Eric Paige

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Pat Poulin.

AGENDA: Larry Trottier moved and Brian Wells seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

10c Commercial TMAs

16 Executive Session for Personnel Issues

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Brian Wells moved and Steve Fielding seconded to approve the minutes of December 17, 2007 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brian Wells moved and Larry Trottier seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. Although we had a negative cash flow in December it was much less of a negative cash flow this time last year. We are still in the process of processing the Early TMAs. We do not have a count at this time. Bryant Watson estimated that the office is about two thirds of the way through processing the Early TMAs. Bonnie Holbrook questioned whether anyone else is trained in processing the TMAs besides Kathy Duprey. Ann Shangraw suggested that we ask Bryant Watson to make arrangements to cross train another staff member to do Kathy's job in case backup is needed. Pat Poulin requested that she also document her job duties.

CONSENT CALENDAR–EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: Brian Wells moved and John Perkins seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried. The total of \$272,105.05 in first grooming payments is scheduled to be sent this week. Updates were distributed from the Legislature and Chamber of Commerce.

COUNTY REPORTS: In Franklin County everything is great. “No snow, no problems, no complaints”. Addison County does not have any snow. The County is sponsoring a poker run in a couple of weeks. Washington County has some good riding in higher elevations. Unfortunately some of the lower elevations, like Barre, had to close portions of their trails due to no or low snow. People need to watch out for water bars. Orange County is in pretty good shape. There are still quite a bit of open water bars so riders need to be careful. There were some signs stolen in Taylor Valley this past week. West Fairlee is having a BBQ this weekend. Lamoille County had a bad snowmobile accident resulting in the death of a teenager. Windham County has very thin snow in the valleys but good riding in the higher elevations. Chittenden County is pretty much closed. Essex County is up and running. They have one area where there is no grooming temporarily. Bennington County had an ice storm. You couldn’t even walk in the woods. They had to shut trails down for about 12 days until a good snow fall was received. The trails are spun down to the ice again though. You’ve got to be very careful. Caledonia County is having troubles with a couple of railroad crossings other than that all is good. Grand Isle County has some good trails and a lot more riding this year than the past few years. Their TMA sales are up this year. Law Enforcement has been out and writing tickets for non-compliance items. Trails in Orleans County are all open and in pretty good shape. Snow is a little low in the lower elevation. They will be running with the Sheriff’s Deputies in the groomers beginning in February. Windsor County has some riding. Bruce Murray said the trails are screaming for help with water bars! There is a whole new approach to dealing with the Bridgewater issue. There is a study being done on the road issue. The club is looking at a way to relocate the trail. Rutland County is sketchy in the lower levels. Route 7 in the northern part of the county has some great riding. The law enforcement had a young rider they caught that was issued with violations for no TMA, no insurance, no registration and “no nothing”!

Alexis Nowalk wanted the Board to acknowledge and thank Jim Hill, Ken Gammell, Ed Hebebrand with Ed’s Repair Shop and Ed Bryce with Bryce

Mechanical donated all the plumbing material for all their help with relocating the offices.

APPROVE NEW LVRTC MEMBER, SHARON AHERN: Sharon Ahern has marketing and fundraising experience that is needed. She is with the Horse Council and is a snowmobiler. She'll be representing the Horse Council on the LVRTC. Ken Gammell moved and Brian Wells seconded to appoint Sharon Ahern to the LVRTC. Motion carried.

HIRE A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR LVRT: Ken Hoepfner has offered his services as a campaign manager. His proposal would not cost VAST anything unless he is able to raise substantial funds, and then any payment for his services would be from those funds raised. We need to identify the ongoing needs of the project and how to fund it. Brian Wells moved and Ken Gammell seconded to move forward with entering into a contract with Ken Hoepfner to raise funds for the LVRT and for him to be reimbursed with a percentage of the funds that he raises. Motion carried. There was further discussion on ACT 250 permits and trail designs.

BARRE SNO-BEES – GROTON STATE FOREST TRAILS: Tabled to February until the Sno-Bees can join us.

VAST INVESTMENT POLICY: Mark Ellingwood reported on a meeting that he, Bryant Watson and Kathy Duprey had with the investment officer at Chittenden Bank. The meeting was to explore ways to increase the yield for our funds in the bank and to create online banking. Mark Ellingwood moved and Ken Gammell seconded that we move forward to work with Chittenden Bank to create a proposal for an investment policy and to currently transfer funds into a money market at this time. Motion carried. The Fiscal Committee would like to compare investing options with a couple of local banks. If we do this with the Scholarship Fund we possibly earn a higher yield and give two \$2,000 scholarships instead of \$1,500 we currently do. The Scholarship Fund would then become self sufficient.

COMMERCIAL TMAS: Windsor County Director Bruce Murray, was questioned by his county regarding how much of the \$275 per Commercial TMAs goes back to the local clubs that are impacted by the commercial tour, which the amount is \$75. The current policy was read. Bryant Watson will make sure we are in compliance with the bylaws this year which is the resident TMA portion. There was a discussion on how

the policy currently reads and that the VAST portion of the TMA is based on current Resident TMA price.

AMERICAN THUNDER RIDERS UPDATE: Bryant Watson gave an update on the financial issue with the American Thunder Riders and the amount of money that the club owes VAST for parts and last season's TMAs. The attorneys representing VAST and the American Thunder Riders negotiated an agreement for an amount to be placed in escrow and then will be transferred to VAST. The American Thunder Riders had 76 miles of trails they were responsible for. The machine and drag was picked up about a week ago. We have several options for placing the groomer. Alexis Nowalk has been working with three bordering clubs to have the trails groomed in the interim. The County has not had a chance to discuss and work on a solution. There are a couple of people that are interested into taking over the contract for the Piston Bully. Another option is to have the other clubs to pick up the grooming for the rest of the season. There has been discussion with the Lunenburg club to use the PB200 to groom the trails with the rest of this season. The County needs to decide how to handle that area of their county. Pat Poulin asked if the County is willing to work on the solution for the rest of this season. The County did approve hiring a temporary groomer to groom those areas. Alexis Nowalk had received so many complaints that it became a safety issue so she called an emergency meeting to get the trails groomed in the interim. Ken Gammell moved and Jeff Fay seconded that we take up Brian Wells' offer to work with Alexis to run the groomer in this area for the rest of the season. Motion carried. There was a discussion on where the equipment could be housed.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: The Organizational Goals & Planning Committee is working on the annual work plan. The Nominating Committee has received one intention of running again from our current VAST Recording Secretary. Awards, Recognition, Scholarship & Volunteerism chair, Bonnie Holbrook, announced the winners of the 2007 Volunteer Weekend. Safety & Responsible Riding Committee chair, Mitzi Oakes, reported that the Safety Week celebrating the International Snowmobile Safety Week was very successful. She distributed a written report. There was good attendance at our display. She thanked all who participated and worked the weekend including the law enforcement officers that volunteered their time for the weekend! Chittenden County Sheriff's Department had several deputies and the Vermont State Police had two troopers. University Mall has already penciled us in for next year's ISC Safety Week. We had two dealers that brought new

snowmobiles including 2 little 120s that were a huge hit. We had a couple of antique sleds that were very popular. The committee is already planning on expanding the antique display as that drew in a lot of folks. Josh Nelson, chair of the Marketing & PR Committee reported on several events that committee is working on. The Make-A-Wish Event is February 16th. There are a lot of other club events going on that same weekend. The donation day is to spread out around the State in hopes of wider participation. It is up to each County whether to participate or not. A VAST Key Chain or a VAST Euro Sticker will be given for donations of \$5 or more. The committee will have signs and a packet of information that will be sent out the week before the event. The contacts for participating counties are: Orange County – Bonnie Holbrook; Chittenden County – Jeff Fay; Bennington County – Norm Roark; Caledonia County – Ted Chase; Orleans County – Dave LaBelle. The Legislative Dinner is February 8 and invitations have gone out. Bryant Watson will send the legislative contacts for each count to the County Director to contact personally. The schedule will be same as last year with a game at the end of the evening and will “Test your VAST knowledge” and will be County versus County. Peter Welch will be attending. The dress is Suite & Tie business attire. A 40th Anniversary Birthday Party is planned. It will be a summer event in June or July and we are looking at the Hartland area as a central location. The plan is to have a motorcycle ride-in and have a band or bands play. The committee is looking into holding a formal Gala Ball as a fundraiser. Each County is requested to create a list of VIPs, high profile folks, business owners or big landowners to invite and bring the list to the Board meeting next month. The thought is to charge \$100/couple to raise funds for the Snow Trails Conservancy. The Trail Committee had a ride last week and they had a lot of fun.

OTHER: Windsor County brought back to the Board their decision that the cost to try to disbar a member from purchasing a TMA is not feasible due to the fact that TMAs are assigned to the snowmobile and not a person. Essex County and Orange County felt the same way and that it was a waste of money to spend for legal fees to disbar someone when it can not stop them from riding a legal snowmobile. Rutland County’s stand was to have the law enforcement deal with the issue. Caledonia County feels the issue needs to be addressed. Ann Shangraw moved and Brian Wells seconded to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. Motion carried.

Rutland County would like to know if the County could get more Volunteer TMAs than issued which can not be done. However, a club can sell a regular TMA for \$25 and then the club would pay the difference.

The VT/NH Board ride probably will not happen this year. The Board Resources will work on scheduling it for next year.

Brian Wells moved and John Perkins seconded to move into Executive Session at 9:04 to discuss a Personnel issue. Directors, Officers and Alternate Directors only are to be present. Motion carried.

Bruce Murray moved and Brian Wells seconded to move out of Executive Session at 9:26 PM. Motion carried.

The next Director's Meeting is February 25th, 2008 at 6:00 PM with refreshments provided by Chittenden County. Jeff Fay moved and John Lynds seconded to adjourn at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bonnie Holbrook
VAST Recording Secretary