

## VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 28, 2008

**DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES, OFFICERS & STAFF PRESENT:** Conrad Stewart-Addison; John Perkins-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jeff Fay-Chittenden; Dave Page-Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Currier-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Merritt Budd (*absent*)-Rutland; John Lynds-Washington; Roone Gibbs(*absent*)-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

**GUESTS:** Star Poulin, Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Ed Hebebrand, Mike O'Hara, Dave Pastula, Frances Pillsbury Josh Nelson, Ted Chase, Joe Cicia, Senator Jane Kitchell, Kitty Toll, Sue Trottier

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

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

10c Survey results

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *Conrad Stewart moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the minutes of June 23, 2008 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Larry Trottier moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* Our cash flow is running at a negative although it is a smaller negative cash flow than last year at this time. Income on VAST Promotions was questioned which Bryant and Mark will check on and report back. Jim Holbrook questioned the \$477 charge for sleds which was for 3 sleds to be serviced for the summer.

**CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** *Jim Hill moved and Conrad Stewart seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Alexis Nowalk distributed copies of the spreadsheets listing the equipment grants and construction grants she received this year. She was able to approve 19 equipment grants out of 29 grants that were applied for. Our budget this year for equipment grants was \$526,775. The total amount applied for was over One Million Dollars. There were some very disappointed and upset clubs. There were 151 construction grant-in-aid projects applied for and 123 were approved with the money being set aside. The projects were ranked by priority.

We ended with 34,549 TMAs sold with some TMAs still outstanding. Bruce Murray has had feedback from his county that we need to address the clubs that are chronically late turning in their TMAs. There is a VAST policy in place. However, it is difficult to enforce. Pat Poulin asked Bruce Murray if he would be willing to chair an ad-hoc committee to address this, which he declined. We will be getting a list of total TMAs sold per club when it's done.

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**DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES, OFFICERS & STAFF PRESENT:** Conrad Stewart-Addison; John Perkins-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jeff Fay-Chittenden; Dave Page-Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Currier-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Merritt Budd *{absent}*-Rutland; John Lynds-Washington; Roone Gibbs*{absent}*-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

**GUESTS:** Star Poulin, Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Ed Hebebrand, Mike O'Hara, Dave Pastula, Frances Pillsbury Josh Nelson, Ted Chase, Joe Cicia, Senator Jane Kitchell, Kitty Toll, Sue Trottier

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

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

10c Survey results

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *Conrad Stewart moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the minutes of June 23, 2008 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Larry Trottier moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* Our cash flow is running at a negative although it is a smaller negative cash flow than last year at this time. Income on VAST Promotions was questioned which Bryant and Mark will check on and report back. Jim Holbrook questioned the \$477 charge for sleds which was for 3 sleds to be serviced for the summer.

**CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** *Jim Hill moved and Conrad Stewart seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Alexis Nowalk distributed copies of the spreadsheets listing the equipment grants and construction grants she received this year. She was able to approve 19 equipment grants out of 29 grants that were applied for. Our budget this year for equipment grants was \$526,775. The total amount applied for was over One Million Dollars. There were some very disappointed and upset clubs. There were 151 construction grant-in-aid projects applied for and 123 were approved with the money being set aside. The projects were ranked by priority.

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## VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 28, 2008

**DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES, OFFICERS & STAFF PRESENT:** Conrad Stewart-Addison; John Perkins-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jeff Fay-Chittenden; Dave Page-Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Currier-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Merritt Budd *{absent}*-Rutland; John Lynds-Washington; Roone Gibbs*{absent}*-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

**GUESTS:** Star Poulin, Mitzi Oakes, Jim Holbrook, Ed Hebebrand, Mike O'Hara, Dave Pastula, Frances Pillsbury Josh Nelson, Ted Chase, Joe Cicia, Senator Jane Kitchell, Kitty Toll, Sue Trottier

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

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

10c Survey results

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *Conrad Stewart moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the minutes of June 23, 2008 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Larry Trottier moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.* Our cash flow is running at a negative although it is a smaller negative cash flow than last year at this time. Income on VAST Promotions was questioned which Bryant and Mark will check on and report back. Jim Holbrook questioned the \$477 charge for sleds which was for 3 sleds to be serviced for the summer.

**CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** *Jim Hill moved and Conrad Stewart seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Alexis Nowalk distributed copies of the spreadsheets listing the equipment grants and construction grants she received this year. She was able to approve 19 equipment grants out of 29 grants that were applied for. Our budget this year for equipment grants was \$526,775. The total amount applied for was over One Million Dollars. There were some very disappointed and upset clubs. There were 151 construction grant-in-aid projects applied for and 123 were approved with the money being set aside. The projects were ranked by priority.

We ended with 34,549 TMAs sold with some TMAs still outstanding. Bruce Murray has had feedback from his county that we need to address the clubs that are chronically late turning in their TMAs. There is a VAST policy in place. However, it is difficult to enforce. Pat Poulin asked Bruce Murray if he would be willing to chair an ad-hoc committee to address this, which he declined. We will be getting a list of total TMAs sold per club when it's done.

### COUNTY REPORTS:

**Champlain Valley;** Addison County has started the paperwork for work on the bridge on Route 7. Chittenden County reported that all is quiet

**Central Vermont;** Orange County is quiet. Frigid Frost Fighters have some projects they need to get done. Washington County reported that nothing unusual is going on. They are going to inspect some suspension bridges. They also need to meet with the USDA.

**Northeast Kingdom;** Caledonia County had a good time in Hartland at the 40<sup>th</sup> celebration. They think their county won the tug-a-war contest by default with the most attendance. Essex County has some washouts that need repair. They still have the property tax issue in Canaan. Orleans County reported they have some washouts also.

**Northwest Vermont;** Franklin County reported that all is quiet now although it's not going to be pretty when they get out there after the water goes down. Grand Isle County is coming along very good. They've got some work plans in place. The Alburg Snow Springers took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with their float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Lamoille County reported all is quiet

**Southeast Vermont;** Windham County was not present to report Windsor County is quiet after the VAST 40<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**Southwest Vermont;** Bennington County reported no news is good news. Rutland County was not present to report

**Please note:** ALL Directors need to get the message out to their clubs to check all culverts. Many of them are now blocked due to the storms we've had.

**DISCUSS & APPROVE FY 2009 BUDGET:** Treasurer Mark Ellingwood reviewed the written narrative explaining the changes included in the proposed budget. We are proposing a balanced budget this year unlike the last couple of years. There is a narrative that has been provided to explain the changes. There is a proposed \$15 grooming surcharge added to the TMAs to fund the Grooming Fuel adjustment (subsidy) payment. All of the grooming surcharge funds (\$450,000) are earmarked to fund a grooming fuel adjustment payment in FY '09, and it will also attempt to reestablish 3/5 of the Grooming Contingency Fund. We completely exhausted the Contingency Fund in FY '08. This is the only way we can fund the Fuel Subsidy payments without discontinuing other projects and programs.

Bruce Murray questioned the costs for our lobbyists and what we have gained from it. It has freed up Bryant's time tremendously. They have also been a great help in monitoring the proposed bills. Our legislators look to lobbyists frequently to learn about issues and make decisions. We will be using them to help move forward on proposing bills this coming year. We are still waiting to hear from the insurance company on insurance for 5-day passes. We are trying to negotiate for a better rate. John Perkins asked us to put the insurance issue on the agenda for next month. *Conrad Stewart moved and John Ross seconded to approve the proposed FY 2009 budget. Motion carried with one nay by Essex County.* Dave Page wants to note for the record that we should be asking for a higher raise for the TMA than \$15 for the Grooming Surcharge.

**UPDATE ON CANAAN PROPERTY TAX ISSUE:** The Letter of Grievance with signatures of the 3% plus of the Grand List was submitted to the Listers on time and filed with the Board of Civil Authorities.

**TMAS:** The committee is waiting for the proposed TMA form before they meet again. They will be looking at the Early Bird TMAs and a policy for handling them. They will be meeting soon.

**LVRT UPDATE:** Bryant Watson reviewed his update in his report. He updated us on the issues with permits and Storm Water Runoff. We are hoping to get some discretionary consideration from the Secretary for Agency of Natural Resources. There would be over a couple hundred thousand dollars of additional costs if we have to create drawings with a scale of no less than 1" = 110' and that they show topographical contour lines of no less than 5-foot increments if we are required to submit them for the permits. To date, VAST is the only user group to step forward with funds for this trail. Even though this is a four season recreational trail, no other user group has put forth any funds. There is a Horse Group that has indicated that they would help submit applications for grants. The Friends of the LVRT have applied again this year for a Trail Amenities grant. They applied last year but did not get an award.

**REPORT ON VAST 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY:** We did have the event on Saturday in Hartland. We had a low attendance. The motorcycle ride had 19 participants. We had about 100 in attendance. Josh thanked the few directors that attended, there were 5 ½ including Jim Holbrook, Alternate Director who represented Orange County. Peter Welch and Margaret Cheney also attended.

**SURVEY RESULTS:** Kent Gardner put a TMA survey on the web. We had 57% Resident and 43% Non-Resident responses. There were 388 total responses to the survey. Kent reviewed the results with the Board.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The **Awards & Recognition Committee** met and selected the winners for the awards that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. The Safety Committee will be meeting soon with Bonnie Holbrook being the Interim Chair.

The next Director's Meeting is August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:00 PM with our annual BBQ & Potluck for refreshments. *Bruce Murray moved and Jeff Fay seconded to adjourn at 8:57 PM.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
VAST Recording Secretary