

## VAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 25, 2008

**DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES, OFFICERS & STAFF PRESENT:** Conrad Stewart-Addison; John Perkins-Bennington; Ken Gammell-Caledonia; Jeff Fay-Chittenden; Dave Page (*absent*)-Essex; John Ross-Franklin; Bill Oakes-Grand Isle; Brian Currier-Lamoille; Larry Trottier-Orange; Brian Cook-Orleans; Merritt Budd-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, Frances Pillsbury Joe Cicia, Sue Trottier, Roberta Slammers, Scott Daniels, Stacy Lynds, Josh Nelson, Marion Gray

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 pm by President Pat Poulin. Pat thanked everyone for bringing a dish to share for our potluck tonight. Brian Cook asked that we note that Dave LaBelle is missed.

**AGENDA:** *Conrad Stewart moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.*

- 11a Move the Executive Session to the end of the meeting
- 8b Brighton Snowmobile Club Loan

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *Conrad Stewart moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the minutes of July 28, 2008 Board of Directors meeting as amended. Motion carried.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *Jim Hill moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.*  
We have a positive cash flow. We had some grant money come in that helped with the cash flow.

**BORDER TO BORDER RIDE:** Marion Gray asked to address the Board to talk about the Border to Border ride. The Mountain Tamers are going to do the Border to Border Ride again. The ride will be February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 beginning in Woodford and ending at the Pigeons in Norton. They are asking for help from the clubs along the route with trail signing. They also want to pay close attention to areas with sensitive areas. In the past they have been served coffee and donuts along the way which was really appreciated. Money raised in the northeast for Cystic Fibrosis is over a quarter of a million dollars. The committee will provide pink arrow signs for the trail along the route. They are going to ask people to commit to raising at least \$150 in pledges.

**CONSENT CALENDAR-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT and TRAIL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** *Jim Hill moved and Jeff Fay seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.* Bruce Murray questioned the timing of the article written for the Caledonia Record newspaper which started a conversation on the LVRT. Bruce Murray suggested that we have Kent Gardner write a press release. There was a press release written a couple of years ago. The LVRTC is working on current press releases. Brian Cook suggested doing a tourist brochure which some felt may be premature. There are just a few people in Caledonia County that are against the LVRT and unfortunately one of the reporters for the Caledonia Record seems to be interested in only reporting one side of the issue which happens to be the negative side.

Alexis Nowalk received an order from the New York Snowmobile Association giving a cross border designation along the Vermont/New York border so snowmobiles with Vermont TMAs and registrations may traverse along this trail where it crosses into New York without also having a New York registration. The Green Mountain National Forest will be doing a chain saw certification course/re-certification courses this fall which she shared the dates.

### COUNTY REPORTS:

**Champlain Valley;** Addison County has some damage in Ripton and East Middlebury. The Lester Hollar trail is gone. They're working on a major bridge project. **Chittenden County** reported that things are well.

**Central Vermont;** Orange County is okay. Alexis looked at a bridge job in Chelsea. **Washington County** has Johnny Lynds working with Doug Wilson to inspect all the suspension bridges in their area. There has been a group of about 18 men working on the trails every week. They hold a work detail every Thursday. They have some work details already scheduled for this week. There is a timber sale happening over near the Little River that will shut down a section of trail which will cause a major reroute. There is a major malfunction on Route 2. They are still landlocked on Route 100. Their first county meeting is coming up. John Lynds reported that he received a letter along with the rest of the Board from the Buckaroos of 302 regarding their displeasure over the TMA procedures.

**Northeast Kingdom;** Caledonia County is in great shape. There was no report from **Essex County**. **Orleans County** reported "no snow on Jay Peak today"! Seriously everything is going pretty good.

**Northwest Vermont;** Franklin County reported all is so good they think they moved to Caledonia County! **Grand Isle County** is going very well. We applied for grant-in-aid funds but were not approved. They are looking at alternative funding. **Lamoille County** reported a little storm damage in the Cambridge area.

**Southeast Vermont;** There was no report from **Windham County**. **Windsor County** reported all is well.

**Southwest Vermont; Bennington County** had a county cookout last week. There is a section of trail that is going to be developed where Corridor 7 crosses Snow Valley which also has an area that involves an Act 250 section with a Bear Habitat area. There is some opposition because hikers tend to hike on the snowmobile trail in this area during the summertime. The club needs help from the VAST office with the Act 250 part. The landowner is willing to work with the club on this issue. **Rutland County** is still working on getting landowner approvals for the section to connect Corridor 7. They may not be able to get that section completed this year. There will be a problem getting it across Route 4.

**ANNUAL MEETING, ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS, MORNING SEMINARS?:** Mark Ellingwood suggested that we have a seminar on Ancient Roads. Another topic would be a seminar on Club websites. Pat Poulin asked Alexis to do a seminar on application paperwork. Larry Trottier suggested that we have one on filling out the TMA forms. Bonnie Holbrook suggested that we put Early Bird TMAs on the Annual meeting agenda for discussion and input. **Ken Gammell moved and Larry Trottier seconded that the Early TMA need to be in the VAST office by the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, or postmarked by the 29<sup>th</sup> of December or the club will pay full price for the TMA even if they sold them at the Early Bird price. Motion carried with Washington County abstaining.** It was suggested that the clubs/agents be required to sign a consignment agreement when they receive the TMAs.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Essex County is ready for the annual meeting. They don't really have a place big enough to hold the annual meeting so they will have it at Burke Mountain. They may have parking in the lower parking area at Burke Mountain for RV parking. Contact Dave Page for lodging information. There are several lodging facilities that are very welcoming to snowmobilers.

**BRIGHTON SNOWMOBILE CLUB LOAN:** The Brighton Snowmobile Club had a large construction project that went way over the approved grant. VAST paid for the construction and the Brighton Snowmobile Club agreed to pay \$1600/year for ten years until it was paid for. We have not received a payment from the club and VAST has not sent them a bill. Pat Poulin asked Bryant Watson to make sure we bill them accordingly. **Ken Gammell moved and Bruce Murray seconded that we send them an invoice. Motion carried.**

**OTHER:** John Perkins recommended that we have Bryant Watson check with Kathy Duprey on the status of the situation with the club that asked for forgiveness for their TMAs that were accidentally thrown into the fire. This led to a discussion on past clubs that had lost TMAs and according to VAST policy they had to pay for them. There have been clubs that arranged to pay for them over a period of time with Board approval, so they would not be bankrupted. This is an option the club can ask for so it does not bankrupt them.

**APPROVE PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES:** **Bruce Murray moved and John Perkins seconded that we present the changes to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.**

**APPROVE LVRTC CHANGES TO THE LVRT MP:** **Jeff Fay moved and Conrad Stewart seconded that we approve the changes to the LVRT MP. Motion carried.**

**APPROVE NEW TMA APPLICATION FORM:** **Bruce Murray moved and Conrad Stewart seconded that we approve the new TMA form with the recommended changes. Motion carried.** The intent is to use the form for all types of TMAs. Pricing will be sent with the forms. The plan is to have the TMAs put on 8½ x 11 pages that have holes for 3-ring binders and be perforated so they can be pulled out of the page easier. They will be printed on NCR paper. There were suggestions for changing the formatting slightly.

**PR COMMITTEE'S REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF FALL SHOWS – SAM SHOW IN W. SPRINGFIELD, MASS, OCTOBER 18-19 AND VT ALL SPORTS, RECREATION & FITNESS EXPO – ESSEX JCT., OCTOBER 11-12:** Josh Nelson reported that they met last week. The total costs were just under \$5900. We had a total income of a little over \$1100. The costs were under their budget of \$6,000. The committee is going to narrow their focus to one event in the wintertime. The current shows scheduled are:

- ◆ Milton Activity Fair on September 9<sup>th</sup> needs volunteers.
- ◆ VT All Sports, Recreation & Fitness Expo – October 11-12. Chittenden County will staff it.
- ◆ SAM Show in Massachusetts – Alexis Nowalk, Josh Nelson, Kent Gardner, Jeff Fay, Jim & Bonnie Holbrook and Pat & Star Poulin are available to staff it.

Kent Gardner & Josh Nelson are going to put a calendar together and add all the shows and events to it. There will be a video contest this coming season and Josh Nelson will write an article for the November issue of the VAST News announcing it. It will be recommended that we keep in mind Safe Riding image.

**LVRT UPDATE:** Bryant Watson gave a brief report on the LVRT. They are working on the wetland permits. The chair of the committee asked that we name a member to replace Dan Favreau's position, preferably a snowmobiler in Franklin County.

**John Perkins moved and Jeff Fay seconded that we extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The **Goals & Planning Committee** asked to be on the agenda for the next Board meeting to discuss the Annual work plan. The **Nominating Committee** has received letters of agreement to run again from all four of our current officers. The **Personnel Committee** will have a discussion in Executive Committee. The **Safety Committee** met last week. We will be hosting an exhibit at the

University Mall in S. Burlington again this year in January during the International Snowmobile Safety Week. Pat Poulin, Jim Hill and Bonnie Holbrook have asked to be invited to the Rutland County meeting to talk with them about hosting an exhibition at the mall in Rutland during the International Safety Week. We have the new manuals for the Safety Certification courses. Jere Johnson ordered 4,000 of the new books. There are still about 1,000 of the old manuals which Jere will bring the old ones to the office to distribute at the shows. Law enforcement will be stepping up enforcement on loud pipes. The State Police will order the safety inspection stickers again this year. If any law agencies need stickers, they can contact the State Police.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – POTENTIAL LEGAL ISSUE:** *John Perkins moved and Jeff Fay seconded that we move into Executive Session with Alternate Directors included. Motion carried.*

*John Perkins moved and John Ross seconded that we come out of Executive Session at 9:30 pm to extend the meeting. Motion carried.*

*John Perkins moved and Jeff Fay seconded that we extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Motion carried.*

*Jim Hill moved and Jeff Fay seconded to return to Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues. Motion carried.*

*John Perkins moved and John Ross seconded that we come out of Executive Session at 10:23. Motion carried.*

*Conrad Stewart moved and Jeff Fay seconded that we approve the Executive Director's evaluation. Motion carried.*

*Jeff Fay moved and John Ross seconded that we approve a 4% increase for the Executive Director. Motion carried.*

The next Director's Meeting is October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:00 PM with Orleans County providing the refreshments. *Conrad Stewart moved and Jeff Fay seconded to adjourn at 10:26 PM.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Bonnie Holbrook  
VAST Recording Secretary