

**Board of Directors
October 26, 2020
Minutes**

Members Present:

OFFICERS PRESENT

President, Tim Mills
Vice President, Jeff Fay
Secretary, Jim Hill
Patty Companik, Treasurer

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Jeffrey Hayes
Caledonia: Kenny Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Mike Daley
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Damien Henry
Lamoille: Carmin Lemery
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Curt Marechaux
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Drew Fraser
Windsor: Dick Jewett

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
LVRT/Trails Manager: Ken Brown
VAST/LVRT Associate: Peggy Whiteneck

GUESTS:

Ivor Stevens, Alternate Director, Windham
Stan Choiniere, Chairman, Safety Committee
Ed Hebebrand

President Tim Mills called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Pat Poulin moved and Mike Daley seconded approval of the agenda as submitted. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Secretary's Report

MOTION: Lewis Barnes moved Curt Marechaux seconded approval of the August 24, 2020 minutes as corrected: increase in insurance was \$50,000; Lewis Barnes is the Addison County Director; fix typo on page 2, TMA not TA. **Motion carried.**

MOTION: Dick Jewett moved and Carmin Lemery seconded that the September 12, 2020 minutes be approved as corrected: In the discussion on sign position, the issue is whether signs are close enough to the roads, not the trails; Sonia Koehler was still treasurer at the time of this meeting as Patty Companik's tenure didn't begin until October. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Patty Companik presented financials through September that have VAST in the black in an amount close to projected, and \$627,862 was moved into reserves per budget approval at the Annual Meeting.

MOTION: Mark Reaves moved and Jeffrey Hayes seconded that the treasurer's report from August and September be approved as submitted. **Motion carried.**

Tabled Items

MOTION: Curt Marechaux moved and Carmin Lemery seconded that the pending issue of Caledonia TMA payments be untabled. **Motion carried.**

MOTION: Curt Marechaux moved and Lewis Barnes seconded that the tabled issue be opened for discussion. **Motion carried.**

Cindy presented the amount the club still owes for missing TMAs and a map order. Minus grooming payments owed to the club, the amount the club owes to VAST is \$2,790.17. The club has agreed to pay that amount. A recent change within club leadership should help avoid future problems, and the online system of TMA sales will also insulate the club from further record keeping problems.

MOTION: Carmin Lemery moved and Mark Reaves seconded that the Board approve the payment agreement as presented. In discussion, question was raised whether a lump sum payment would adversely affect the club. Kenny Gammell reported that the club wants the matter settled in full now.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

TMA Update

Cindy Locke reported that online TMA sales are going well even while we are still building out the system with refinements. She noted this is the first time VAST has seen revenue in October, which will help with revenue forecasting.

She also reported that she is hearing concerns from out of staters about traveling to Vermont during the Covid crisis. She will be sending out an email blast that addresses those concerns and the expectations the state has for prevention measures.

She screenshared the club and TMA type distributions among the more than 1700 TMA's sold thus far. Roger Gosselin asked for a monthly report to the Board on TMA sales by club if possible, and Cindy said that wouldn't be a problem to produce.

TRR Club Guarantee

Matt Tetreault reported that the Topsham Ridge Runners are asking VAST to guarantee a \$45,000 loan over five years with Northfield Savings Bank at a 4.75% fixed rate and a \$10,342 estimated annual payment. There was some discussion at the Board meeting about whether the club would be able to make the payments on the loan. Matt reported that \$22,030 is the cap on their grooming contract, and they are pretty solid as a club, have strong backing from their members, are highly motivated, and are located in a snow belt, so they should be able to repay the loan without difficulty.

MOTION: Mark Reaves moved and Lewis Barnes seconded that VAST guarantee the \$45,000 loan for the Topsham Ridge Runners. **Motion carried.**

SSTP and F&W Update

Cindy Locke reported that VAST had been getting a lot of pushback from FP&R in the form of a demand giving that department oversight of VAST budgets. VAST hired a well-qualified attorney to support VAST's contention that FP&R does not have this authority. At a meeting of the parties, FP&R agreed that, while it has the right to audit, it does not have authority to control or dictate the budget and its category allocations, budget approval being the responsibility of the Governor's Council on which FP&R has one vote. The SSTP agreement and its associated funding for VAST are now moving forward. The Board congratulated Cindy and the rest of her staff for a job well done in seeing this matter through to resolution.

Staff Reports (ED, Trail Administrator, LVRT Manager)

Reports are included in the Board packet. Matt Tetreault answered questions on logistics of the construction seminar and GPS tracking units. The dollar cost for pending units is total, not per unit, with 42 units scheduled to be done this year. Matt noted that including Class 4 roads would require another 30 units. Board consensus was that class 4 is not a priority.

Cindy Locke will send out to the Board the attorney's report on the meeting with FP&R.

Committee and Other Meeting Reports

Northeast Chapter and USA

Vermont representatives Pat Poulin and Jeff Fay reported that the group is still meeting monthly with nothing particular to report at this time.

VT Snow Trails Conservancy

Jim Hill, President of the VSTC, reported that the easement for a section of trail in Cambridge has just been finalized. The VSTC will be coming to the Board in December for appointment of trustees to the Conservancy.

Law Enforcement Committee

Cindy reported that contracts are out to all the sheriffs, state police, and Vermont Fish & Wildlife. There are two new law enforcement organizations that will be participating in snowmobile enforcement: the Newport Police Dept will do cruiser patrols, and Morrisville will cover Lamoille County. Training for new law enforcement is being scheduled.

Awards and Nominating Committee

Committee chairman Patty Companik reported on distribution and corrections to awards from the Covid-restricted Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting

Pat Poulin and Jeff Fay reported that the annual meeting venue is still undecided but that the hosting county, Chittenden, is leaning toward Farr's Field in Waterbury, which worked well for the socially-distanced 2020 Annual Meeting.

Long Range Planning & Organization Committee

Committee chairman Mark Reaves indicated that this committee hasn't met since Annual Meeting but that they do have items to talk about that they will consider in the coming months.

Resource Committee

Ivor Stevens reported that development of the questionnaire for clubs has been completed.

Trails Committee

Committee chairman Jeff Fay reported that the committee met last Monday night and is designing new signage for problems on the trail (road impassable, GPS wrong, etc.). Addressing a question raised at the September Board meeting, stop signs need to be placed far enough off the edge of the road not to be overrun by plows and snow banks.

Safety Committee

Committee chairman Stan Choiniere said a meeting is scheduled for this week with several topics on the agenda: signage, helicopter landing areas, and the recommendation that police issue more fines vs. warnings. Stan reported very positive feedback on the article in the *Traveler's Guide* about keeping hands on handlebars and avoiding hand signals that force the rider to brake and otherwise operate with one hand.

Cindy Locke reported there are 40 Safety Ambassadors and that orientation has been scheduled.

Governor's Council

Chairman Pat Poulin said the Council still meets regularly, and minutes are in the Board packet.

MOTION: Lewis Barnes moved and Curt Marechaux seconded that the meeting be adjourned. ***Motion carried.***
The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hill
Secretary