

VAST Board of Directors – April 22, 2019 – Meeting Minutes

Final - Approved at the May 20, 2019 Meeting

OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: Tim Mills
Vice President: Jeff Fay
Treasurer: Sonia Koehler
Secretary: Jim Hill

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Scott Westlake
Caledonia: Ken Gammell
Chittenden: Pat Poulin
Essex: Stewart Ahearn
Franklin: Mike Burns
Grand Isle: Dave Ladd
Lamoille: Ellis O'Hear
Orange: Juliann Sherman
Orleans: Roger Gosselin
Rutland: Curt Marechaux
Washington: Mark Reaves
Windham: Drew Fraser
Windsor: Dick Jewett

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Doug Jacobs, Windsor County; Ivor Stevens, Windham County; Merritt Budd, Rutland County.

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
Trails Manager: Ken Brown
Office Coordinator: Cyndy Carrier Brown

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Hebebrand, Angel Emmons.

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

Recognition of Visitors:

Approval of Agenda: Dave Ladd moved to approve; Roger Gosselin seconded; motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Lewis Barnes moved to approve; Curt Marechaux seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sonia Koehler gave a brief overview of the TMA report thus far for the 2019 Season. TMAs are still coming in; we are waiting on about 31 clubs to turn their sold/unsold information in. We will have a more accurate number of sales at the May meeting, along with a breakdown.

Curt Marechaux moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Mark Reaves seconded, motion carried.

LVRT Status

- Ken Brown – Not much has changed from last month. Munson is working on the project in Sheldon; ditching, installing rails on the bridge.

New Business

- Lifetime Award – Curt Marechaux was approached by a member of the Tweed Valley Travelers to consider a lifetime award for Dot Williamson. Curt provided a write up from the club member.

Curt Marechaux moved to approve the lifetime membership; Lewis Barnes seconded, motion carried.

Workers Comp

- Mark Reaves – I was approached by one of the clubs to look at worker's compensation insurance. All other clubs in our county do not pay any of our groomers, so we don't feel that we need this. A person from the insurance group was supposed to be here tonight, but was not able to attend. He did provide some written information for our review.
- Cindy Locke – The only way VAST could do workman's comp insurance would be to have all of them as employees of VAST.
- Ken Gammell made a motion to table this item until next month when we have had more time to review the material; Mark Reaves seconded.
- After discussion, Ken Gammell rescinded his motion; Mark Reaves withdrew his second.
- Roger Gosselin – We have a workman's comp policy. We have an officer that grooms for us; he had to sign a waiver in order to groom. When I was the VP of the club, I would had to have either resigned from the position or signed the waiver. I didn't want to sign the waiver, so I resigned. The last thing we wanted to do was make 6 of them employees, but there was nothing we could do unless we stopped paying them.
- Believe it or not, people rely on their grooming salary.

County 911 Maps

- Cindy Locke – Orleans County did their maps and booklet and other counties have reached out to Ken Brown to do the same for their county.
- We are thinking of having them available maybe late summer or fall when we do the new map this year, so we will coincide with that.
- Roger Gosselin – There are 15 districts within Orleans County, the map done for Orleans Cty was a district map.
- Ken Brown – The cost of the binder done for Orleans county was \$30 for a binder / laminated sheets.
- Cindy Locke – We have a local printer that I think will give us a good deal on doing these.
- Roger Gosselin – We'd like to provide copies to the fire departments, police departments and state police.

Other

- Tim Mills – How are log sheets coming in?
- Matt Tetreault – They are about 85% in.

Committee Reports

NE Chapter

- Pat Poulin – The issue at the chapter level right now is we are spending more money on giving out scholarships than we are bringing in.
- We will be raising dues to \$200.
- NH and Maine are raising their dues next year (\$100) and will be going up again in 2021 (\$120).

Multi Use

- Roger Gosselin – I am no longer the chair of this Committee. Cindy Locke has found a replacement.
- Gary Nolan will now serve as the Chair. He is on the Board of VASA; serves on the Vermont Governor's Snowmobile Council so I think he will be a good person for this position.
- Roger did a great job getting this started.

Awards & Nominating

- Tim Mills - Meeting coming up in May.

Annual Meeting

- Ken Gammell – Everything is coming along great. We have lots of good vendors coming.

Finance Committee

- Cindy Locke – The Scholarship fund has about \$211,000. The CD expired so we pulled the money out and are looking at options for this money. It is currently in our General Fund checking account.
- Jeff Fay – What we are suggesting is to split the funds; \$100,000 to a moderate investment portfolio and then take the balance and put it into a high yield CD.
- Leave enough available for a few years of scholarships.
- We have a rough proposal from a bank; we are investigating other options.
- Do we want to think about changing the amount of scholarships given, the number given out.
- Mark Reaves – I don't have a problem with investing it, but I would lower the expectations for it.
- Get into an institutional index fund. There is a short term need for the money, so we need to be careful.
- Cindy Locke – We have talked to an investment company, through a bank.
- Scott Westlake – Merrill Lynch, gets about 10%, readjusts your account every 90 days.
- Dick Jewett – What role is the awards committee going to have deciding if we change how much we give to scholarship recipients?
- Tim Mills – As a committee you can talk about recommendations and then the Board will decide.

Lewis Barnes made a motion to have the committee come back with options so we can discuss at the next BOD; Curt Marechaux seconded; motion carried.

- Cindy Locke – Would the BOD like this person to come in and discuss this at the next BOD meeting? Yes, the Board would like that.

Long Range Planning

- Mark Reaves – We are finalizing housing, the agenda, etc., for the Leadership Summit.

Trails

- Jeff Fay – There is a meeting coming up at 1:00 on May 18th after the construction seminar.
- Will be discussing grooming contracts, mileage additions, etc.

Safety

- Pat Poulin – We met on April 10th. For safety training classes, there were 2 more on line; 306 classroom, 1636 on line.
- We will not be doing a recertification class this year, unless we get a request for them.
- Mark Reaves – Are we going to do something about the guide?
- Pat Poulin – At the present time there is no law stating that snowmobile accidents need to be reported to anyone. We are working on changing that.
- The accidents this year – 6 were reported to DMV.
- Have been working on the Ambassador program.
- We are reviewing the dollar amount of fines issued by law enforcement.
- Off trail riding – Agencies believe they cannot write a ticket for off trail riding on private land.
- Looking at a statewide training program for all law enforcement agencies.
- Still working on hands on handlebars. Cindy is working on PSAs for this.
- Roger Gosselin will come up with some sites for landing aircraft for emergencies.

Governor's Council

- Lewis Barnes – On the list of warnings, do they tell you what the warnings are?
- Pat Poulin – No, they don't. There were significant warnings in March.
- We hope to be getting a breakdown from the individual agencies about the type of warnings, etc.

Executive Session to include Officers, Directors, Alternate Directors, and VAST staff – Ken Brown, Matt Tetreault and Cindy Locke.

Roger Gosselin moved to go into Executive Session; Stewart Ahearn seconded; motion carried.

Regular Session adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Executive Session

Curt Marechaux moved to come out of Executive Session; Lewis Barnes seconded; motion carried.

Roger Gosselin moved to take no action; Stewart Ahearn seconded; motion carried.

Curt Marechaux moved to adjourn the meeting; Mark Reaves seconded; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.