

**VAST Board of Directors Meeting
March 22, 2021
Meeting Minutes – 1st Draft**

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Addison: Lewis Barnes
Bennington: Jeffrey Hayes
Caledonia: Bruce Carlson
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: Ivor Stevens, Alternate Director
Windsor: Dick Jewett; Doug Jacobs, Alternate Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Executive Director: Cindy Locke
Trails Administrator: Matt Tetreault
LVRT/Trails Manager: Ken Brown
VAST Operations: Cyndy Carrier Brown

GUESTS: Jim Sugden, County Riders; Sean Selby, Brighton Snow Club; Raymond Rodrigue, Orleans Snow Stormers; Stan Choiniere, Chester Club, and Ed Hebebrand, Danville S Ski Mos.

President Tim Mills called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Lewis Barnes moved and Mark Reaves seconded approval of the agenda as submitted. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Secretary's Report

MOTION: Curt Marechaux moved and Pat Poulin seconded to approve the Secretary's Report as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Patty Companik gave an overview of the financials for the period ended February 28, 2021.

MOTION: Mark Reaves moved to approve and Ivor Stevens seconded the approval of the Treasurer's Report as submitted: **Motion carried.**

New Business

TMA Program Update

- Cindy Locke – To date we have sold 24,175 TMAs. We are about 3,500 above last year. A TMA was actually purchased on 3/15!
- The on-line system allows us to get up to the minute data instead of having to wait until the end of May or June for numbers.

Act 250 – Trail Alternative Program Update

- Cindy Locke – VT Trails & Greenways met today and we have decided not to accept the report to the Governor that ANR has proposed for an alternate program and exemption to ACT 250 because the proposal is much worse for trail organizations than ACT 250 itself. All organizations Agree with VAST.

Staff Reports (ED, Trail Administrator, LVRT Manager)

Committee and Other Meeting Reports

Northeast Chapter and USA

- Pat Poulin – NEC will be holding it's annual meeting on the 24th in lieu of going to Congress this year. Meeting via Zoom. 7 – 11 PM.

Awards and Nominating Committee

- Patty Companik – We received 7 scholarship applications and the committee is currently reviewing them. A reminder that award Nominations are due May 1st.

Annual Meeting

- Jeff Fay – Farr's Field is reserved; tents reserved; sound and food are all set.
- Date is September 11, 2021

Long Range Planning & Organization Committee

- Mark Reaves – We will be meeting to review the online system to see what we can do to improve it.

Resource Committee

- Ivor Stevens – We are half-way through meeting with Counties; Patty is helping. The committee will get together soon to review what they have.

Trails Committee

- Jeff Fay - Postponed meeting to April 19th.

Safety Committee

- Stan Choiniere – We had a meeting and discussed some alternate ways to have safety courses.
- The first Landing Zone sign is up.
- We will be meeting on April 19th.

Governor's Council

- Pat Poulin – There are a few things going on. Cindy Locke wants us to look at Commerce trails; looking at possible legislative changes for commerce trails.
- A Commerce Trail allows a rider from another state to come into VT without a TMA to the first service point. Works for Vermont as well.
- Cindy Locke – I had a question from a landowner in MA regarding liability insurance.

- Carmin Lemery – What about Current Use Tax for landowners?
- Pat Poulin - Everyone thinks that it's a great idea, but what about the money that the state won't be receiving for taxes?
- Current Use does not have anything to do with recreation; it is generally for agricultural use, but similar models have been brought up over the years.
- How can we benefit landowners with something similar to current use?
- Bruce Carlson – When will clubs receive the Bridge Inventory Sheet – a lot of clubs in our area are interested in getting this. Jeff will send it out.
- Cindy Locke – Drew Fraser has resigned from the Board. Ivor will be contacting a few people to see who might be interested in filling this position.
- Yvonne and Ronnie Rice lost their son. VAST will be sending something.
- Bruce Carlson – 4 accidents this season. 1 fatality. Any information?
- Cindy Locke – The fatality was in Mt. Holly. Pretty sure it was an inexperienced rider and possibly she was fatigued. Have not received the police report.
- There is no requirement that an accident has to be reported.

MOTION: Curt Marechaux moved and Mark Reaves seconded that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hill
Secretary