

VASA Board of Director Minute
May 13, 2024
VASA HQ

Chris Putney calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Roll Call

BOD Present: Maureen & Steve Mosher, Ray Blakeney, Lloyd MacCormack, Brian Benoit, Mike Coleman, Tom Nazzewski, George Barton, Steve Bean, Mike Small, Craig Warner, Fred Elliot, Chris Putney, Bill Huff, Melissa LaBounty, Doug Stone

BOD Present Online:

Leigh Curtis, Joe Pelkey, Spencer Leggett, Bartholomew Howes, John Hull, Chris Hill, Laura Champagne, Matt Frechette, Vern Stone

Staff (Non-voting) present: Tommy O'Connor, Jeremy Sneed, Ethan Hill Jim Dwinell, Frank Stanley

Secretary's Report:

-are there any additions or corrections to the report?

-Motion made to accept the report by Steve Mosher, seconded by Fred Elliot, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Treasurer's report:

Jeremy has been working with the accountant to reconcile statements. It is almost done.

Fred Elliot makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Steve Mosher, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Frank Stanley gave a report.

Staff Reports-

Directors Consultant:

TAD season is in full swing, status reports are included in the packet. 2048 sold as of BOD meeting date, \$86,700.00 total.

We currently show 31% of members state that they are available to volunteer. They also show that 11% state they only ride one trail system, which underscores the importance of well marked trails & signage to keep our members safe and on the trails.

The Club sheets have been put together and you should be seeing the emails and funds soon. On another note, he let the E-board know that he does not plan to renew his contract for the next fiscal year. He hopes to move back into volunteer status. He has been elected as the Vice President of the LNAC Club. He looks forward to meeting with us on BOD Mondays.

Trails Coordinator:

VTMP Updates;

David and Ethan have been working in Rutland, doing a few small projects while grant apps are being finalized. Once those are complete, they will be headed north to begin those grant projects.

Equipment updates:

The Hitachi excavator is being torn down to have the stick rebuilt. Also, working with A&L machining and United (John Deere) to get that project completed. The new trailer has arrived with a few issues that we are working with Trailer World to address. He will have further updates on this next month.

Other updates:

The Law Enforcement schedules that have been received by clubs have been sent off to the agencies that those clubs are working with. If your club is working on LE schedules and agreements, please keep Ethan CC'd on those emails so that he knows what the plans are and how the schedules are being implemented.

Executive Directors report:

Tommy was called into the State House two times this past month.

One was in front of the Senate Transportation committee, about safety and side by side helmet use. Tommy spoke to the importance of helmets regardless of machine type. The statistics show that helmets in a side by side help keep a person from striking the roll cage and causing injury. Overall it was a positive discussion and the committee agreed on the importance of keeping our riders safe. At the closing of the meeting, electric off-road vehicles were discussed. This is not something that we see a lot of at the moment but if the Committee wants to buy us one, we will test one for them.

The second one was with the House Ways and means committee. The conversation was about the proposed new tax on private sales. A brief history of VASA was discussed by Frank & Tommy and that they are not necessarily opposed to the tax as long as the legislature finds a way to keep us as a "whole" budget wise. They proposed the raising of the registration percentage amount to 100 of ATV registrations being accessible to VASA through the State agreement. Tommy was asked about a "legislative ride-along". One is being arranged for a legislator to ride along with the NEK club. These opportunities are valuable and encouraged if you have the opportunity with your club. The plan is to give a tour of multiple trail networks to highlight specifics of our maintenance and safety programs.

Another topic that was prevalent in April and continues in May is Tommy's attendance at some selectboard meetings. Two have been attended and an additional two are scheduled. There are 6 towns currently that are entertaining some form of ATV ordinance edits, additions or fully opening road possibilities, He brings this up as a cautionary example of information that towns have. Some residents think that once the town opens up roads to ATV traffic that VASA will come in and take care of this. THIS IS NOT CORRECT! Ethan & Tommy are working on several projects in relation to towns that want to open up roads. They are gathering the necessary

information The are many things that need to be focused on before a set of town roads become trails is the following:

- Surveyed Roads - do we know where the road is, how it is classified and any features it has.. ALSO, some roads will require AOT to do a traffic study.
- Landowners - are any sections of road deeded to landowners and with what specifics
- Current status of the road -what condition is it in, what work would need to be done
- Town buy in - how will the town support the work of the road that becomes trail. This is a mutual effort and cannot be the sole responsibility of VASA.

Then after all of that, a club would need to be willing to be the “Managers” of that trail and would need to look at Law enforcement, maintenance schedules etc. This is a lengthy process. We have made a point to make sure that the towns interested in opening more roads know that this is just that and they did not realize all the work that is involved. Please be careful as you attend these meetings and make sure that the process is well known and that there is no misconception on how we operate.

Tommy has received an official letter from Governor Scott naming him the Motorized Representative of VOREC of the steering committee.

On May 3rd, he was also named the Vice-Chair of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council and charged with leading the Policy /Advocacy Committee.

The two positions will help cement our spot at the table to make sure our trails can be sustained over time and that we can look into growth opportunities in the future.

Another item that has garnered some attention is the updating of forms and contacts etc..

Jeremy has been working on club contact info and website contact information. We want to ensure that people can reach the clubs for questions or riding information the best we can. We also want to make sure that landowner permission forms are up to date. We will be looking over our networks to make sure that all the necessary permissions are in place. This will be ongoing and there is the likelihood that some permission forms will need to be updated in the next few months. This is again to make sure that Ethan & David can get out there to do the work on our systems and also to make sure that when it is grant funded work we can access the funds without issue.

He extends his thanks again to all for the work that is done. It has been great to see the wonderful community events being posted on social media platforms that are helping to create a strong positive image. Thanks again to all of you for working to get your networks opened for a great 2024 riding season.

Additional Business:

- BOD Meeting RSVP - Chris asks that everyone take the time to respond as this is important to know for many reasons such as how much food needs to be ordered and will we have enough attendees for the required quorum votes.
- V.E.S.T Training updates -Jeremy states that we are reaching out to see if more training dates can be set up to spread the training out thru the state. There is also the potential for more instructors to be added.

- We have made the purchase of 200 online safety courses that will be available soon & we will keep all up to date with info.
- Club Signs on VTrans posts - Ethan sent an email with multiple examples as to how to place signs on shared roadways.
- Removing home addresses on website - Jeremy is working on removing club reps home addresses from the website. If you have any Green Up Day pics send them to him to post on FB.
- Facebook / Social media etiquette - Chris states that it is very important to set a good example on social media. Wearing helmets, not tearing up the trails, and being respectful.... "LEAD BY EXAMPLE!"
- No Open Land Permissions - Tommy - there will be an updated landowner form available soon, need to get them up to date. VPR requires a 5 yr permission form so ideally it would be good to get a 5 yr but we will work with a maximum of 3 years.
- State Farm Sponsorship / other potentials. - Jeremy and Tommy have been going out in the community looking for potential sponsors.
 - State Farm is willing to work with us and the potential for sponsoring a particular event by providing a donation while adding their marketing to our website.
 - American Income Life Insurance Company is looking for the ability to send a mailing out to all of our members either by allowing them to access our database of member info or by us addressing envelopes & mailing their docs to all of our members. There is the potential for up to \$2000 of a donation. They would like a decision ASAP.
 - This one has been tabled so that the individual clubs can bring it back to discuss with their members.

Chris mentions that there is a discount available thru L-Cares of East Montpelier, VT and Axel Helmets.

Chris adds that Lloyd Church has decided to step down as VP in July of 2024.

Tommy addresses Jim retiring and proposes a change in his position to an Office Assistant and Grant administrator role on a full time schedule instead of the current part time capacity. The E-board has approved the change in the position.

-A motion was made to approve the change by Mike Coleman and seconded by Steve Mosher, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.

Chris brings up that we should get plaque(s) for Lloyd and make him a lifetime member for his 19 yrs of service.

-Motion made by Fred Elliott to purchase the plaque(s) and to make him a lifetime member, seconded by Steve Mosher, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.

Officers up for election in July are VP, Treasurer and Member at large.

A motion made to adjourn by Steve Mosher, meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.