

VASA Board of Directors Minutes  
September 13th, 2021  
VASA HQ

Board of Directors Present: Gordon Pirie, Reynold Sicotte, Ken Wetherell, Nancy Smith, Spencer Leggett, Ted Lane, John Hull, Chris Hill, Tim Joyal, Mike Coleman, Jessica Tatro, George Barton, Steve Bean, Chris Putney, Fred Elliot, Alford Stone, Doug Stone, Gary Nolan, Cathy Keller, Lloyd Church, Adam Lane.

Guests Present: Dennis Goyette, Robert Bouchard, Laura Champagne.

Special Guest: Tony Campos

Staff Present: Danny Hale, Ethan Hill, Emily Hale, Jim Dwinell.

Adam Lane calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Secretary's Report:** It is asked if there are any questions or changes needed for the Secretary's Report. Hearing none, *Doug Stone makes a motion to accept the Secretary's report. Dennis Goyette seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed; motion carries.*

**Treasurer's Report:** It is asked if there are any questions for the treasurer's report. Hearing none, *Ted Lane makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Reynold Sicotte seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed; motion carries.*

**Staff Report:** Jim contacted Tony Campos from Central Vermont Television to find out more about a hybrid meeting set up as was discussed last meeting. Tony presented the BoD with a list of equipment that most likely would be needed. He showed us the "Cadillac" version, but we can always customize it more to exactly what VASA would need. The quote was about \$19,000.00 for the equipment alone. Tony went over how exactly the meeting would be ran quickly for the BoD to have a better understanding. We would still need to purchase a virtual meeting platform such as Zoom or something similar to host these meetings. Tony and his employees would come to the meetings and help run the logistics if that is something we need. Ken Wetherell speaks up mention that he has a license with Zoom and knows a lot about how it's ran. *After some discussion Spencer Leggett makes a motion to continue looking into hybrid meeting setups. Ken Wetherell seconds the motion. Eleven for, five against; motion carries.*

Jim reports that the new updated form has been running smoothly so far on the website. There's been 75 purchased since the new form went live. Out of those we had 4 people donate \$10.00, 4 donate \$20.00, and 1 donate \$50.00. We're well into working on the form to be able to do transfers, and to be able to join multiple clubs. Those features will be available next year. Total sales as of now is 6,344.

Ethan reports that it's time for trail closing dates. If you have multiple trails that close at different times than we need to report the earliest closing date as your trail closing date. We don't have the ability to have different dates for every individual trail. We're planning to start selling TAD's January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 so that means that the deadline to approve your clubs map changes is no later than October 13<sup>th</sup>. It's important that we get all changes set so we can make sure to get the maps in on time to be available come January. Fred asks if the coordinates will be put back on the map. Ethan responds yes, or if clubs have a 911 address they'd like to add let him know. Trail maintenance applications need to be submitted this fall for next year so they're ready to go once the season starts or even potentially early if

we have a decent spring. We're still looking for a Senior Trail Technician. Mike Coleman asks if they need to get permission from the select boards for class 4 roads. Ethan replies, yes so that it's all squared away for the paper map.

Danny reports that we need to update our policies. They haven't been updated in a very long time. We would like to get a committee together to go over the policies and bring the updated and refreshed policies to the BoD to be approved. Cathy Keller, Jessica Tatro, Chris Putney, and Spencer Leggett volunteered to join this committee. Danny presents the updated VASA By-Laws for approval that were sent out last month. There were very minor changes, and they were mostly grammar changes. *Reynold Sicotte makes a motion to accept the By-Laws. Ted Lane seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed; motion carries.*

We've yet to be invoiced by Fish and Wildlife patrols. We're used to it, and they're very short staffed. We've also spoke with the Bennington County Sheriff's Office. Up until now it's been up to their discretion to patrol when they waned. We've given them \$7,800.00 to date, with over 200 contacts and 100% compliance. We know there's plenty of activity down there that could be ticketed. We've asked them to stop doing patrols at their own leisure, and to make a plan with the local clubs to better target the problem areas.

In the packet was the preliminary drawings for the addition. We're moving forward with the office addition and moving the office space to the basement. We've contacted the bank about financing and there's no issue with that. Currently the mortgage on the building is \$75,000. We need to vote on whether or not to move this project forward. John Hull asks, how long do we anticipate that amount of addition lasting before we grow out of it. Danny responds, forever. The shop area is plenty big, and the office space moving downstairs gives plenty of room for meeting space. *Tim Joyal makes a motion to move forward with the building addition. Fred Elliot seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed; motion carries.*

The BoD decided that orange will be the Trail Access Decal color for 2022. Mileage reports are due by the first Monday of April, July, October, and January.

VAST has been looking at getting their own captive insurance company, basically self-insuring. They've hired a firm to do a feasibility study on a risk retention group which means they're not self-insuring themselves but a group where they can add others into. They've asked all the trail organizations if they want to participate in a feasibility study to see if it will work. VASA is going to participate as we have nothing to lose in participating. Fred Elliot asks, what's different than what we carry for insurance now. Danny responds, ideally it would be cheaper, and we'd have more control.

There's a conference in Jay VT in October. The American Safety Institute which covers ATV safety would like to do a demo. They need five ATV's, not side by sides to borrow. If anyone knows anyone who would be willing to let them borrow then than let Danny know.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Laura Champagne is wondering if it's possible to change the width from 64 inches to 70 inches wide. Many side by sides come factory bigger than 64 inches, and 70 inches would still keep the jeeps off the trails. Unfortunately, if we go to Montpelier and ask to change the width to larger we'll

most likely be turned down. Just last year we raised the weight. The BoD decided that it's best not to try and raise the width at this time.

**Legislative Update:** None.

*Reynold Sicotte makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ted Lane seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed; meeting is adjourned at 7:36 pm.*