

VASA Board of Director Minutes
October 09, 2023
VASA HQ

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

Roll Call

BOD Present: Ray Blakeney, Gordon Prie, Ken Wetherell, Chris Hill, Brian Benoit, Jay Potvin, Mike Coleman, Tom Nazzewski, George Barton, Steve Bean, Mike Small, Lloyd MacCormack, Fred Elliot, Bill Huff, Chris Putney, Lloyd Church, Judy MacCormack, Melissa LaBounty & Doug Stone

BOD Present Online: Ian McKenzie, Spencer Leggett, Bartholew Howes, Laura Champagne, & Maynard Earle

Staff (Non-voting) present: Tommy O'Connor, Carson Anderson, Ethan Hill & Jim Dwinell

Secretary's Report: It is asked if there are any additions or corrections to the report. Chris Hill made a motion to accept the Secretary's report with the correction, seconded by Fred Elliot. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Treasurer's report: It is asked if there are comments or questions on the report. Steve Bean makes a motion to have the credit card statements added back to the agenda packets, seconded by Lloyd MacCormack, All in favor (3), opposed (5), motion not carried. Lloyd reminds all that they all have the right to look at & have the statements to view. Tom Nazzewski makes the motion to have the Credit card reports sent as a separate agenda packet, Seconded by Steven Bean, All in favor, none opposed, motion carries. Chris Hill makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Mike Coleman, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Staff Reports-

Directors Consultant: TAD sales continue at a predictable late season rate (9 processed on the day of meeting). The 2024 TAD application has been built and is in the final stages of testing. It has been adapted to fit with the projected new VT DMV registration process, new, renewals and temp registrations should be in a more user friendly format from them, making things simpler on our end. The merging and processing is also in the final stages of building as well. It is being adapted to send the final paperwork via email vs mailing paper. We were able to get the licensing Sales Force software at no charge due to our non-profit status. We will begin exploring its usage for VASA. It looks to be a good choice with no cost for data management for VASA.

-Do we want to continue with the volunteer recognition t-shirt program this year?

Bill Huff made a motion to continue with the volunteer t-shirt program & leave it up to the clubs to decide the number, seconded by Ken Wetherell, Discussion.... What is the color? Yellow.

Bill Huff amends the motion to consider the cost at the next meeting. Seconded by Lloyd MacCormack, All in favor, none opposed, motion carries. .

-Are we going to move forward and produce the signs and plaques for club awards and people choice awards that were set for the annual meeting?

Bill Huff makes a motion to follow through with producing the signs, seconded by Gordon Prie, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Judy MacCormack asks if we have taken care of the plaque for Gary Nolan previously voted on. Chris Putney says that he has received a mock up from Jim today. Chris mentions that he feels we should also consider doing the same for Adam Lane for his 10 plus years of service.

Chris Hill makes a motion to get Adam a plaque, seconded by George Barton, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries

Trails Coordinator:

VTMP Updates:David and Ethan returned to work on trails at SVTR. They placed 10 loads of material onto the new section of trail. They are hoping to have more material delivered to the next landing this fall so that it's ready for them in 2024. SRR grant is completed. Over 600 tons of material have been placed so far, it turned out great. They will be moving back to TCATV to finish their project after that. **Grant updates:** They will need to start the RTP project for CATT either this Fall or in the Spring of 2024, more likely in the Spring. Ethan has some office work to get done. Ethan met with wetlands for the RTP grant on the Lowell Wind Tower Trail & hopes that will continue to move that along further. He also went to the Lowell Selectboard to have them renew their landowner permission for that section of trail. He needs to start meeting with clubs to better document flood damages to start utilizing what grants come about for flood recovery. **Equipment updates:**The second track on the JD excavator ended up needing replacement. He will need to look into track replacement for the C30 track truck this winter as well.

He reminds that all clubs should start putting together their maintenance requests this Fall. They need to have a solid plan this Fall so that they can be ready for Spring and not worry about finding material and getting it placed. This summer would have gone much smoother without the rain and flooding but we managed to stay busy during all of it.

-Gordon Prie asks where we are at with the dump truck replacement process? Ethan states that we need money. Judy asks if we can use FEMA \$ to purchase it. No, it won't qualify for FEMA. RTP grants may be allowing for equipment costs again, & he is going to try & get the trailer replaced that way. Maybe try a USDA Grant, still trying to figure out how we will get the funding to purchase it.

-Lloyd MacCormack suggests that with all the connections that Tommie & Frank have, maybe VASA should pursue looking to purchase a State dump truck.

-Doug Stone asks how many CDL licenses does VASA have currently? 2 both A's.

-Chris Hill asks if there is any update on the Kiosks? Ethan says there is no update, and that 5 or 6 clubs we're interested in the program. He asks that clubs respond to the original email sent for better tracking.

Executive Directors report:

He focused on a few different items in September.

First, he worked with Forest Parks & Recreation on weekly updates to funding to support rebuilding efforts after the July 11th flooding event. One of those items discussed was the availability of a pool of money, roughly \$6 million for rebuilding. VASA will be working on an application to access some of that money to work on trail networks that were hit by the floods. Also, during a conversation with FPR, Tommy was appointed to the SCORP team to represent motorized recreation. SCORP is the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This has to be revised every 5 years and 2024 is the next revision. Being invited to the board will have two major components. The first is to represent both ATV and snowmobiles in the recreation plan for the State of Vermont over the next 5 years. The second is to again work with several members that help influence how we access trail networks to work towards more trail opportunities.

He spent a few days working with Frank Stanley. They heard about some possible discussions around some bills that VASA may need to weigh in on at some point. At this time, it does not look like anything major, but he is working with Frank & legislative committees to make sure they stay up to date on all conversations.

On September 25th, he volunteered at the Vermont building at the BIG E, running the tourism booth. The booth is a spot where people can inquire about Vermont Tourism and pick up materials related to Vermont. He worked from 11 am to 7 pm and spoke to over 2,000 people while there. Specifically, he spoke to around 100 people about ATV opportunities in VT and spoke with a member of VT Tourism Development at length about ATV opportunities. Connected with people from NH, CT and RI states also. He would recommend doing this again.

He received an update from law enforcement in Caledonia and a bill for 2 hours and that 2 tickets were issued and no warnings.

Tommy has submitted additional info about the Springfield RV / Camp Show in the packet for review and consideration to attend it:

-they estimate that they will have 40,000 people in attendance.

-Judy asks that Tommy provide an updated cost breakdown.

We need to finalize our decision by December 1st for a lower cost.

Bill Huff made a motion to move forward with the plan to attend this event, seconded by Fred Elliot, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Chris Putney report:

-2024 TAD cost increase?

Chris Hill states that he likes the volunteer t-shirt idea but what about a volunteer TAD at a lower cost instead of doing the volunteer t-shirts? It was decided to table the volunteer package discussion.

-What about raising the price of TAD's?

Bill Huff made a motion to raise VASA dues to \$20 (\$80 total), seconded by Lloyd MacCormack, all in favor (6), opposed (4), motion carries.

Chris responds to a previous question asked about VASA spending \$ & does it need to be voted on. There is nothing in the by-laws that states the BOD needs it to be approved. He feels that it should all be up front & voted on by representatives of all clubs.

There are 2 committees coming up that will need volunteers.

- Trails committee (ran by Ethan Hill and Lloyd Church)
- Finance & Policy committee (Judy MacCormack will lead this)

We will be looking for volunteers for these at the next meeting.

Tommy "Can I muddy the water?" in regards to the raising of VASA dues, maybe reduce the law enforcement budget in half & have club commitment to cover the other half of the law enforcement budget and not raise the TAD price? \$1250 commitment from each club? Maybe consider it for the year after (not 2024).

-Fred Elliot asks where does that additional \$10 increase go? Trail maintenance is the answer.

-Doug Stone mentions his disappointment that the 25th anniversary celebration did not happen after all the work that went into it. He still thinks it should happen

New Business:

-Judy asks what is for sale?

- The enclosed trailer reduce to \$8,500.00
- Can-am apache 360 tracks that were on the defender

-Bill Huff feels that we need to form a committee for the 25th celebration to happen in 2024.

-George Barton asks about the by-laws being amended, is a motion needed? No, that is a big part of the purpose of forming the Finance & policy committee

-Gordon Prie asked where we are at with winter storage of equipment? Plan is in motion to work on setting up the VASA grounds to store the equipment at the office which will involve leveling the ground and putting up a pole barn.

George Barton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Hill, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.