

VASA Board of Director Minute
October 14, 2024
VASA HQ

Melissa LaBounty calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Roll Call

BOD Present: Maureen & Steve Mosher, Richard Manning, Lloyd MacCormack, Ken Wetherell, Chuck Lyman, Jim Dwinell, Chris Hill, Brian Benoit, Albert Desrocheres, Tom Nazzewski, George Barton, Steve Bean, Mike Small, Fred Elliott, Vern Stone, Melissa LaBounty, Doug Wheeler

BOD Present Online:

Ian MacKenzie, Joe Pelkey, Chad Letourneau, Bartholomew Howes, Laura Champagne

Staff (Non-voting) present: Tommy O'Connor, Jeremy Sneed, Ethan Hill, Erik Moreau and Gordon Pirie

Melissa LaBounty states that with the President and Vice President not present at the meeting, we will need to have a President Pro Tempore to run the meeting. Bill Huff is willing to but we will need a motion.

-Jim Dwinell makes a motion to have Bill Huff step in as President Pro Tempore. Seconded by Fred Elliott, All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Bill Huff thanks everybody that has attended this evening both in person and via zoom. He mentions that if you're not aware we had a real issue earlier this week with obtaining a quorum to be able to operate tonight. He continues to reiterate the importance of responding to the RSVP email that goes out the week before our monthly meeting. It is an essential key to knowing if we are able to even hold the meeting, plus lets us know how many we'll have in person to be able to order enough food.

Secretary's Report:

-are there any additions or corrections to the report?

-Motion made to accept the report by Chris Hill, seconded by George Barton, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Treasurer's report:

-Bill Huff starts with the Balance Sheet, he states that there are a couple issues with it that make it an incomplete document. It's a document that is supposed to represent a balance of our total assets in comparison to our total liabilities. For example, the building would be an asset offset by the mortgage liability. He believes our assets are in excess of the \$592,000 listed. The balance sheet is supposed to be a complete representation of how a business is doing financially. He mentions also that a balance sheet is typically presented once a year and not

every month as we have been presenting it. However, he would like the BOD's opinion before removing it from the monthly agenda packet.

-Jim Dwinell mentions maybe we should keep it in the packet until it is corrected and complete.

-Ian MacKenzie suggests quarterly, continuing with keeping it in the packet until corrected.

After a bit of discussion, It was decided to continue having Jeremy work on getting it cleaned up and then re- visit the question to put it to a vote at some point.

Next is the profit & loss statement; he checks to make sure that everyone understands that the first column is actual numbers based on a quarter as the fiscal year began on July 1st. While the budget numbers in the next column are based on a year so the next column that shows over or under budget are off a lot (because the actual are only a quarter of the budget column numbers).

-A motion is made by Fred Elliott to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Brian Benoit, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.

Staff Reports-

Office Manager - Erik Moreau:

We just finished our fall membership campaign and what we were trying to accomplish there was sort of getting the word out about riding during the fall foliage. We didn't have a ton of feedback from folks who had ridden. We're looking for pictures of all the trail systems. We ended up with pictures from 10 of them which included multiple pictures at the same lookout, and we were able to put that on the map, so that's on Polaris Ride Command. We think that gave us a little bump in some of the membership stuff this fall. Chris Jones won with a photo at the Topton Lookout. I don't know if you guys know where that is, but there's a camper there and just a beautiful spot, and he took a picture that looked like a postcard and sent it to us. We picked randomly and picked him to have a free membership for next year. So we got kind of twofold out of it. There's a lot more binoculars around the state on Polaris Ride Command, Ethan got those put up there so that you can see them and folks can make that a destination to go ride your club.

We're currently sitting at 5,700 memberships for the year, which is about 130 off from last year's total. He has been spending quite a bit of time trying to analyze these numbers, looking for explanations as to why the numbers are down.

We're doing a study right now as we're getting ready to move to a new CRM (a relationship management system).

There are also a bunch of new marketing plans for the spring, trying to increase the numbers for next year, putting a lot of emphasis on social media.

Also, he wanted to extend a quick THANK YOU to multiple clubs for help with assisting some questions from Canada looking for places to ride.

Trails Coordinator - Ethan Hill:

VTMP Updates; David and I are working in Concord for Top of the World. I'd like to have that finished up this week. We finished the RTP for the Sutton Power Line project. Also finished up a

few other projects in that area as well, while we were in the area. We'll be going to CATT after that, and are here working in LNAC Thursdays and Fridays to complete those projects there as well. David and Gordy did finish that this week, so those guys are all set. As far as closing that section of trail down, I would like to go back next summer and help those guys out some more as well. I have been hauling material in the new dump truck. That's going well. Convert was a good place to try that out because I don't know that I could have found somebody to haul material up in there where we are. So that is a good place to try that out. We also used the new hammer in Top of the World. While working up there, we spoke to the Snowmobile Club a couple of times while they were checking out the progress. They were pretty pleased to see us knock out a couple of those sections of ledge that hung their boomer up a couple of times. So they were happy to see that as well. I put new tires on the Belmont trailer after having a tire separation coming back from Jack Pines and had the 7-pin harness on the red one ton repaired.

GRANTS: RTP grants are being executed now, and once those are complete, we'll be moving on to the VOREC flood recovery grants. I am also going to be looking for a couple of RTP grant projects for next year. Also I will have the occasional day or two while waiting on material to be delivered or weather conditions and may be able to provide trail work with clubs that have submitted paperwork already. Just be sure that everything is ready to go now, so if the free day arises, we can start right away. That includes landowner permissions, communication with landowners, making them aware that VASS will be on the property at some point in the summer during that maintenance that was agreed upon by the club and the landowner. So I think after Concord, we're going to do what we can in CATT. We are getting to the point where it is going to start snowing, so we're quickly running out of time.

Ethan mentions that we have hired Gordon Pirie as the new Tech and that is going well.

Executive Directors report:

During the month of September, there were several items to note that I was part of. First was the reviewing of potential bills that could end up in this session (2025). He is part of a forum that includes several Governmental Affairs Officers and other Executive Directors. The first one that matters to us is that there have been suggested health and safety amendments to our current ATV statute. This stems from a report related to youth accidents etc. We have not heard that it would actually be taken up but we will continue to monitor it. Current conversations continue to revolve and are on going around ACT 250 but not much is coming from them.

On Oct 18th and 19th, he was at the VT building speaking with guests. On the 18th, 63,243 people came through and on the 19th, 61,086 were in attendance. There were multiple questions about riding ATV's and where to go for fall rides. The Ride the Colors Campaign that Jeremy and Erik worked on made it easy to show the printout and encourage riding. Tommy was interviewed during this time by the Boston Globe talking about recreation and also by a media outlet that is specifically responsible for the Big E.

Other items of note are the continued conversions on watching elections locally. We have fielded some questions about motorized support from candidates. Always emphasizing that we

work to provide safe and eco-friendly options to ride in our state. Conversations were had with the following:

- Katherine Sims - senate candidate in Orleans county
- Mike Piechek -Candidate for Treasurer (still trying to line up a guided ride for him)
- Lucy Boyden - candidate for House of Representatives Lamoille District

Ethan and Tommy are heading to Minnesota for the NOHVCC annual conference from the 16th to the 20th of October. There is also a group from Polaris that is hosting a regional meeting in Stowe on the 15th & we are working out a potential ride along with them.

Tommy is hoping to have an updated list about IRS & SOS standing ready for the next meeting. As always he is available to help any club with getting the statuses up to date & active.

Additional Business:

- **Mileage checks - item added to the agenda by Chris Putney:** Chris is not present to explain. Fred Elliot made a motion to postpone until the next meeting, seconded by Steve Mosher, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.
- **VEST sign-up Updates** -Yamaha safety grant written, 200 free codes for the online youth Safety course. 40 have been disbursed. Plans to do another push to get more youths involved.
- **Training dates** - Ongoing chats with Dani Luce, Erik and Tommy passed to be trainers. Working on planning /strategy to potentially offer on-site training etc.
- **Registration / fines.** - The state collects money from ATV registration or fines and they get put into a "Pool" that we can access for reimbursements. There is currently just shy of \$300,000 available in that "pool".
- **Annual meeting discussion** - Westshire and Northwest VT Wheelers have shown an interest in hosting
- **By-law Vote** -the discussion was supposed to be part of the September meeting but that was canceled so we reviewed it. There has to be 60% of quorum present to pass it.
 - Proposal 1 - Annual Meeting change - as a clarification, it was mentioned that there will be 2 meetings in the month of July (the regular 2nd Monday one and the annual meeting).
 - Motion to accept the by law proposal change as written made by Jim Dwinell, seconded by Chris Hill, approved by most, 1 opposed, motion carries
 - Proposal 2 - Registration / membership change (adding as a clarification)
 - Amendment proposed to strike the word bestowment and change it to denial
 - Motion made by George Barton to approve the amendment as stated above, seconded by Brian Benoit. Motion withdrawn.

- Additional amendment proposed by Bart Howes to include the wording “IN QUESTION” after memberships.
 - Motion made by George Barton to amend the proposal with (Any suspension or denial of memberships in question), seconded by Brian Benoit, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.
- George Barton made a motion to accept the proposal as amended, seconded by Brian Benoit, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.
- Proposal 3 -language to be added to Section 2 Annual Meetings (adding section D)
 - Chris Hill made a motion to approve proposal 3 as written, seconded by Fred Elliot, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.
- Doug Wheeler is looking to attend club meetings in late Fall / Winter. His email can be obtained from VASA office
- Jeremy Sneed mentioned that the packet given to all clubs included a Charter agreement looking for signatures stating that you would still be a club next year. Also, Chad Letorneau addressed that there was wording under Financial Agreement that the club agrees to submit financial reports to VASA for review and to insure compliance with non-profit regulations. Jeremy states that this should state “UPON REQUEST”, not that they need to be provided yearly.

A motion was made to adjourn by Steve Mosher, seconded by Fred Elliott, meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.