

VASA Board of Directors Minutes

August 14th, 2023

VASA HQ

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

Roll Call

BoD Present: Steve Mosher, Ray Blakeney, Gordon Pirie, Robbie Perdue, Chuck Lyman, Chad Letourneau, John Hull, Chris Hill, George Barton, Tom Nazzewski, Steve Bean, Mike Small, Chris Putney, Fred Elliot, Bill Huff, Adam Lane

BoD Present Online: Bart Howes, Matt Frechette, Ken Wetherell, Tim Joyal

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

Adam Lane announces Gary stepping down from his role as treasurer. He has served for 12 years as the VASA treasurer, and now it is time to move on. Thank you, Gary, for everything you have done. As a thank you for his service, we should present him with something to commemorate his time and devotion to the organization. Bart Howes motions we make a plaque for Gary, seconded by George Barton. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Gary still had a year left in his current term as treasurer. Per bylaws, the president appoints someone to finish out the current term. Adam Lane appoints Judy MacCormack to finish the remainder of the treasurer's term.

Adam has also decided he will not be running for president again this year. He thanks everyone for the time he has been able to spend in his roll. He saw the organization grow from about 1600 members to about 7000 in his time. It was a difficult decision to step away, but surely will be leaving the organization in capable hands with the incoming leadership.

Secretary's Report: It is asked if there are any questions or changes needed. Steve Mosher motions to accept the Secretary's Report as written, seconded by Fred Elliott. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: It is asked if there are any questions. Nothing is brought up, Fred Elliot motions to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Steve Mosher. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Staff Reports—

Director's Consultant: TAD sales are down some from last year at this time, probably at least partly due to the weather. I have been looking into outsourcing our TAD sticker printing and mailing, talked with the folks who do the printing for VAST. It could be pricy, but VAST has said its been well worth it.

Chris Putney asks what our current cost is for TAD stickers and mailing.

Jim says he has the figures on the computer somewhere, but would have to find it and did not want to interrupt the Zoom call.

Trails Coordinator: Things have been very wet, we are trying to do some work where we can close to the road and bringing material in with the ton trucks. Both Tommy and Carson have spent a day out in the truck helping us and got to see what it looks like out there. We still have equipment in Jamaica we need to pick up, we will return to that project when it is dry enough to do so. We got the National Forest Foundation Grant and have received the funds, we will need to do that project this year, and will get to other club projects as soon as we can.

Executive Director: It has been a busy month with the flood recovery and meetings with various people. I had a good meeting with Commissioner Chris Herrick of Vermont Fish and Wildlife. It was only supposed to be 30 minutes, but we ran over and ended up getting kicked out of the conference room. We plan to have further meetings, especially to discuss law enforcement. I know that has been a major issue that needs to be addressed. I also had a meeting with the Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation that Frank Stanley joined us for. We went over our agreement with them and how they assist with funding. We will be following up with another meeting to work on growing opportunities with us. I have attended some Trails and Greenways meetings, right now the focus is on recovery from the flood. We have been working on putting a damage report together to try to get funding released for assistance in rebuilding.

Events Committee: We are looking towards the future and the planning of next years annual meeting/redo of the 25th anniversary celebration. We do need to run things a bit tighter and set some guidelines to keep things moving in the right direction. There has been a thank you letter put together to go out to our sponsors, thanking them for their support even though we had to cancel the meeting.

Storm Recovery Plan: Tommy has put together a storm recovery plan. This is meant to be a flexible document to work in any situation where we have a major weather event. It outlines the steps in initial assessment, documentation, fundraising, trail work, and community support. If you have any questions about it, feel free to reach out to Tommy.

Trail Operations: We will be at the end of the riding season before you know it. For those who have open trail, please start thinking about trail closing and get your dates to us.

2024 TAD Pricing: We need to start thinking about our pricing for next year's TAD. With material costs on the rise, and the flood damage, we will probably need to raise it to try to cover our costs.

Law Enforcement Costs: Looking at costs, we may want to start up a 50/50 cost share for clubs with law enforcement. Currently VASA covers all law enforcement costs. Without the officers writing tickets, we aren't getting money back from their patrolling either. The money from those tickets, along with registration fees with the state get put into our state fund. We are working on meetings with law enforcement to try to fix the issue of the warning to ticket ratio. It is also suggested that we look into what other organizations like VAST see for warning to ticket ratios to see if this is normal, or if we are being treated differently.

Elections:

We have two nominations for Member at Large, Doug Stone, and Doug Wheeler. It is asked if there are any other nominations from the floor, hearing none both Doug Stone and Doug Wheeler are given a chance to speak before voting. There is a poll on the Zoom meeting for those attending online, those in person voted by paper. By a narrow margin Doug Stone has the vote.

We have one nomination for Secretary, Melissa Labounty. It is asked if there are any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none the voting closes and one ballot is cast for Melissa Labounty.

We have one nomination for President, Chris Putney. It is asked if there are any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none the voting closes and one ballot is cast for Chris Putney.

Adam hands the meeting over to our new president—

Before we get to wrapping this up I just want to say a few words. My goal is to be responsive to needs. I am full of ideas, but this needs to be a group effort. We are entering into a new era here and I ask that you don't sit quietly, we need to speak up and talk. Lets make change. I want to work towards funding ourselves and being more independent. Don't be afraid to ask questions and use each other as resources. We are here to support each other.

We need a vote to make our new president and treasurer signers for our bank account and all other business needs. Tom Nazzewski motions to make Chris Putney and Judy MacCormack authorized signers, seconded my Steve Mosher. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Doug Stone motions to approve the thank you letter for our sponsors, seconded by George Barton. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Other Business: Jess Tatro from SRR introduces herself and talks about the safety program she and Dani Luce have been working on. She is a certified instructor in Massachusetts, and is now certified in Vermont. If anyone is interested in hosting a class for their club please contact her. She will work on some material to hand out at schools and other local areas about the class. She did her first class a little

while ago for her club, they provided pizza and donuts for the kids, that is the only cost for the class to the club, it is free for people to attend.

JPP has their poker run this Saturday.

TOW poker run September 9th

Steve Mosher motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm, seconded by George Barton. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.