

VASA Board of Director Minutes
January 8, 2024
VASA HQ

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

Roll Call

BOD Present: Maureen & Steve Mosher, Gordon Prie, Lloyd MacCormack, Chris Hill, Tom Nazzewski, Mike Small, Steve Bean, Fred Elliot, Bill Huff, Chris Putney, Lloyd Church, Melissa LaBounty, Doug Stone

BOD Present Online:

-Spencer Leggett, Bartholomew Howes, Scott Boyce, Tim Joyal, Laura Champagne, Mike Coleman, Ian MacKenzie, Joe Pelkey, Frank Stanley

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

Chris Putney reminds the group that both Novembers and Decembers minutes will need approval as there were not enough people at December's meeting for a quorum as the internet was not working.

Secretary's Report:

-November's minutes -are there any additions or corrections to the report? -Motion made by Chris Hill to accept the Nov. Secretaries report, seconded by Fred Elliot, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

-December's minutes -are there any additions or corrections to the report? -Motion made by Chris Hill, seconded by Fred Elliot, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Chris Putney states before Tommy reads the Treasurer report that we need to trust that the system is going to work. We have switched systems for our reports. The transfer from one system to the other has caused some of the numbers to be off.

Treasurer's report:

Tommy explains that we have changed from the desktop version of Quickbooks to an online version. In doing this, it has caused multiple items to be tagged incorrectly and thrown the numbers off completely. Jeremy has spent the prior 2 weeks before the meeting going through over 1000 journal entries to retag & categorize them Tommy has helped a little bit. There are approximately 430 or so left. This caused the numbers on this month's report to look very wonky and do not tell the story of what is financially happening. The hope is that the transfer to the online system will help us to provide better information to the board regarding the financial info at VASA.

-December's Treasurer's report -Motion Made by Bill Huff to accept the report as explained, seconded by Chris Hill, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

-Fred Elliot asks if we should be voting on November's treasurer report also and Chris Putney states yes. Report is passed around for viewing as some in the room were not present at December's meeting.

Frank Stanley:

-Legislation sessions have begun & an interesting fact is we still don't have any money & Democrats still won't pass many bills. Big bills that are being talked about currently are the 30 by 30 and 50 by 50, which would involve the State buying up large chunks of land, however, may end up being purchased more by non-profit / trusts. This is a bill that we should be very concerned about. We had our exemption put in that our trails should be considered as recreational trails.

-Act 250 bill is out

-VOREC grant application has been submitted for \$663,400. Originally, there was a larger landowner permission requirement of 10 to 20 yrs, but it was reduced to 5 to 10 yrs.

-Asked Governor for appropriation money to be added to the budget to repair trails, which did not sound promising.

-The usual climate / global warming bills are out there

Motion made by Chris Hill to accept November's Treasurer report, seconded by Fred Elliot, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Staff Reports-

Directors Consultant:

-TAD sales began on 12/15/2023, as of today we are up to 88 sold plus donations of up to \$560 with only a handful of questions regarding the paper maps.

The updated application form has been working well, the digital paperwork vs hardcopy including the map is much more efficient as expected.

He is working on charts for reporting the TAD stats as well as monthly club reports, hopefully they will be ready for next month's reports.

He believes the 2024 TAD sales from December will be sent to the clubs in January as we did last year.

He has recorded a Ride Command for beginners how to video. This is targeted towards members with little or no experience with Ride Command or other GPS apps.

Loacted at <https://youtube/QCZFYB1x68>

He will also be adding a FAQ version for members that are familiar with GPS apps to cover common questions.

Trails Coordinator:

VTMP Updates; Beginning to work on the Spring schedule, based on the locations of our RTP projects in Sutton & Lowell, we will be working north to south again this year. Flood recovery funding is also in the works and these grants will be our main focus for the 2024 season. If you need trail work, please get your paperwork in as soon as possible. Ride Command should be

updated in its entirety. Please take a minute and look over your trail system for anything out of place. An update to Ride Command may have messed up the accuracy to trailhead info etc. Any requests for work from 2023 that did not get completed will be moved to 2024 for completion. Plan is to start in areas where it is dry first.

Grant updates: Still working with FPR to keep RTP moving forward (2022 /2023).

Equipment updates: Nothing to report for December, trying to clean out the shop and get things better organized..

Executive Directors report:

The past month was a shortened month due to the Christmas & New Year holiday week. The main thing that was completed was VOREC community grant - Flood Recovery Track. The VOREC community grant was submitted with the ask of \$663,400. As with many grants if we are even awarded funds it would be for less than that but that is what we put in for. Tommy would like to thank the Team here at VASA for the support in writing this grant, especially Ethan for help getting the trail repair numbers in and pressing needs from the flood. The timeline is as follows. The review period runs from now until February. If selected we will be notified in either March or April and then would have to create our grant agreement.

Over the break, he began the first draft of our 2024 - 2025 budget. The plan is to have a rough draft for February to review. We will use some time at the BOD meeting to walk through the draft budget, allowing time for questions, concerns, etc. The draft will go out well before the agenda packet to allow time to formulate questions etc.

His schedule will be changing slightly as he will be spending several Thursdays out of the office and in the statehouse. There are few meetings of importance scheduled with Frank. There are also plans to be working in the halls with our legislative body to help further our requests. In the near future Commissioner Moore from the Agency of Natural Resources has requested a sit-down with Tommy & that will likely result in 1 or 2 sessions. Frank will of course be joining us when he can with legislative updates.

He has also worked on a 2024 goal outline. The outline is being worked on by staff and will be shared with all. The staff has reviewed it and provided some edits and additions. It is currently in a narrative format & will be made into a true outline format with dates and measurements that are easy to see & understand. As the document mentions the BOD has a crucial role. Not only will you be the one to have check backs and ask about the progress, but you also are the primary editors to this document. As things improve or new areas become the priority the BOD can always edit this document. This will also be available for February's BOD meeting.

Reminder that we have the trade show in Essex VT coming up the weekend of January 19th thru the 21st. If anyone wants to volunteer, let him know. Showtimes are January 19th from 12pm to 6 pm. January 20th from 9 am to 6 pm and January 21st from 9am to 4 pm.

Ethan mentions that the new trailer is in & scheduled to be picked up in April.

Jim makes a point to state that Tommy deserves a tip of the hat that the budget is going to be put out to BOD in advance for review and discussion months in advance to it being voted on.

Chris Putney always wants to acknowledge the effort that Jeremy has been putting into a goal outline for things to do with social media to promote us.

Jeremy plans to do a series of FB posts with the theme of ... "Get to know your club". The goal is to do 2 clubs a month.

Chris Putney discusses the vacancy of the Treasurer position. We have not received anyone willing to take on the position. Bill Huff has been appointed as an interim Treasurer. The goal is to continue looking for someone that is willing to fill the position on a permanent basis for the designated open term.

New Business:

Tommy created a thank you letter to send to the state regarding the approved reduction in the landowner permission length that was also signed by the E board.

Chris also thanked Chris Hill for coming earlier to the January meeting to do some drywall in the stair hallway to keep us up to code with the building.

Tommy adds that all clubs need to verify their info such as current board members etc. on the VASA website and send emails with updates.

Motion made to adjourn by Steve Mosher, seconded by Fred Elliot, meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.