

VASA Board of Director Minutes  
March 11, 2024  
VASA HQ

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

### **Roll Call**

**BOD Present:** Steve Mosher, Ray Blakeney, Gordon Pirie, Jay Potvin, Tom Nazzewski, George Barton, Steve Bean, Mike Small, Lloyd Church, Bill Huff, Melissa LaBounty, Doug Stone

### **BOD Present Online:**

Ian MacKenzie, Joe Pelkey, Chuck Lyman, Spencer Leggett, Bartholomew Howes, John Hull, Chris Hill, Mike Coleman, Laura Champagne, Matt Frechette, Fred Elliot, Frank Stanley

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

### **Secretary's Report:**

-are there any additions or corrections to the report? Gordon Pirie made a motion to correct Frank Stanley's report to simply state that Frank Stanley gave a report.

-Motion made to accept the report with the correction by Bart Howes, seconded by Gordon Pirie, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

### **Treasurer's report:**

Bill Huff addressed an issue in the packet;

-there are numbers in the packet for the Profit & Loss Statement for February & the Balance Sheet, he's thinking that a couple additional columns would be beneficial. He doesn't feel that looking at a single month tells a lot of the story, that a bottom line without a comparison to budgeted or YTD figures. He feels that at some point this should be added.

-also addressed the email that came out just before the meeting regarding budget figures. He states that he would take the numbers in that email with a grain of salt. He does not believe there is a 1.2 million swing from one year to the other. He feels we are on the right track as far as budget talks are going.

-Reminds us about the issue with the switch from the software to online accounting system and the multiple issues it has caused. A meeting with the accountant is scheduled this week.

Gordon Pirie makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Steve Mosher, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

## **Staff Reports-**

### **Directors Consultant:**

Jim talks about the email that was sent out before the meeting that contained proposed budget charts and graphs.

TAD Sales as of the BOD meeting day are at 329 with \$14,370.00 total & 20% of the people are making donations to the clubs. Average age of members is in their 50's, the average machine is 5 years old and 75% +/- are VT primary residents, while the type of machine numbers balance are consistent over the 3 years we have been capturing data.

He included a VASA Recap Sheet in the packet that he used as a handout while he was at the statehouse for the Outdoor Recreation Day on the 16th of February.

The club sheets have been created & should have gone out in the email to all clubs. If you run into any problems with them, please let him know.

### **Trails Coordinator:**

#### **VTMP Updates;**

Ethan reminds us of the projects mentioned at February's BOD meeting;

**RTP Projects** at CATT, BLRR & NEKW and **Club Projects** at NWWV, TOW, NEKW, TVW, SVTR, LNAC, JPP & WRASC. They are in no particular order. He would like to finish RTP projects first to get them done & off our plates. Then, the other projects will depend on the weather, with the plan of going from North to South but ultimately the work will be done according to the dryness of the trails. If your project is not listed, please contact Ethan ASAP. The list above will take a large portion of the season.

#### **Equipment updates:**

He has started a equipment replacement schedule. It is in the beginning stage of it and he will share the finding at a later date. He is waiting for the NAPA filter sale to restock the filters. He is performing maintenance on the new C50R track truck at this time.

#### **Other updates: .**

He will be reaching out to clubs shortly to help create the Law Enforcement Schedules. He has included a blank template and a sample from Jack Pines Pirates schedule for 2023. There were 9 clubs that showed interest in being included in the Law Enforcement spending. This breaks down the amounts available per club to \$2500 for Sheriff and \$700 for Fish & Wildlife for both time periods of May thru July and July thru October.

He asks that the clubs that want to be part of the Law Enforcement budget have their schedules ready by the time trails open.

Gordon asks if the new trailer is done. Yes, it is, Ethan is waiting for better weather to pick it up.

Gordon also asks about the status of the RTP Grants. Ethans states that we unfortunately missed a deadline. He is still waiting for money status from ones in 2022. He states that thankfully we sold the old tracks & Trailer which we will use to offset the cost of the new one.

### **Executive Directors report:**

The majority of February was spent on working on the budget and cleaning up the VOREC Grant request. It has been revised to \$317,000 as an ask. He took some personal time but was

called to testify remotely during his trip. The Testimony was in front of the Senate Transportation. He spoke on the fact that we do not want to see any new taxes related to ATV use or sales but understand that if a new tax is required that we would like to see something in return for it. We currently get 90% of VT Registration costs which averages to \$15 or \$17 K per year. Frank & Tommy will keep us posted on the status of this.

The highlight for February was the Springfield RV and Camping show in Massachusetts. Four very enlightening days, over 2000 pieces of material handed out with many interactions with people to increase our ridership. There were a fair number of Vermonters that weren't aware of trails available as well as residents of Massachusetts were unaware. There were three different landowners (with large parcels) that expressed interest in assisting with growing the space we can use. However, their location would not work currently for VASA & connecting to other trails. A special thank you to Bill Huff for volunteering his time for three of the days during this event

### **Frank Stanley gave a report.**

Jeremy has included VASA and Club Responsibilities lists in the packet. He also plans to work on a VASA BOD and E-board responsibility lists. He also plans to work on updating THE GREEN BOOK. and info inside such as "The code of Ethics", "Conflict of Interest" and "Code of Conduct" policies etc,

### **Old Business:**

George Barton asks about the status of the Policy and Finance Committees. Bill Huff states that he is willing to head up the Finance Committee but does not have an interest in being part of the Policy Committee. There is discussion about separating them and possibly Melissa LaBounty being part of that one.

Chris reminds that SVTR was willing to host the Annual Meeting. Budget of \$5000 and the caterer is open to the dates of July 20th or July 27th. A vote was taken and it was decided that SVTR will be the host and the date will be July 20th, 2024 for the annual meeting. Officer elections will be held for Vice President and Member at Large.

### **New Business:**

Jeremy shared insights with numbers from FB -followers up from 20 K to 51K, clickable links have gone up by 500%, Best post was the Readsboro Club post, trail pics were liked, followers increased by 180%.

Chris brings up the topic of our next meeting scheduled for April 8th, is a huge Eclipse Day that will bring a huge influx of people to the State. It is being called a "Natural Disaster Day".

Ian MacKenzie makes a motion to change April's meeting to the 1st of April, seconded by Bart Howes, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Ethan asks clubs to put a post out on FB to remind people that trails are closed & to stay off trails until opening date to give them time to dry out.

Jeremy spoke in reference to the agendas, asks that people take time to RSVP so that he knows how many agendas to print to try & keep costs down .Also, mentions that if people have their own tablets or laptops they can bring them to view the agenda on and use VASA WIFI. Also, he is still looking for updates from clubs as to any changes in officers etc.

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A motion made to adjourn by Steve Mosher, seconded by Gordon Pirie, meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.