

VASA Board of Directors Minutes
August 9th, 2021
VASA HQ

Board of Directors Present: Gordon Pirie, Esther Searles, Nancy Smith, Chuck Lyman, Chad Letourneau, Joe Berard, Chris Hill, Tim Joyal, Mark Carpenter, Mike Coleman, Robert Bouchard, George Barton, Steve Bean, Pete Walbridge, Chris Putney, Fred Elliot, Bill Huff, Doug Stone, Gary Nolan, Cathy Keller, Lloyd Church, Adam Lane.

Guests Present: Bart Howes, Colby Carpenter.

Staff Present: Danny Hale, Ethan Hill, Emily Hale, Jim Dwinell.

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

Secretary's Report: It is asked if there are any questions or changes needed for the Secretary's Report. Hearing none, *Doug Stone makes a motion to accept the Secretary's report. Bill Huff seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed; motion carries.*

Treasurer's Report: It is asked if there are any questions for the treasurer's report. Hearing none, *Bill Huff makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Fred Elliot seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed; motion carries.*

Staff Report: Emily is looking to move on, and VASA is looking for an operations manager, and a senior trail technician. Trail Access Decals are starting to slow down. Jim and Emily will be working on direct deposits this week for club dues. Emily is still in need of some clubs bank information and needs to confirm some. After last months meeting Jim looked into being able to have a donate button on the website so you could donate additional money to a club if you'd like. We also had discussed online transfers, joining multiple clubs, and listing different club dues. At this time we're still doing research on these and Jim would like to get the membership/events committee together to go over all scenarios before proceeding. Fred Elliot asks how many members we are up to. Jim replies, over 6,000.

We still have some law enforcement agencies reporting that every stop is 100% compliant which is discouraging as we know that's not the case. We still haven't received a bill from Fish and Wildlife yet so we're not sure what their reports will be. We were contacted by the Vermont State Police about Fish and Wildlife potentially taking over the safety aspect that the State Police currently deals with. We spoke previously about contacting Dani and Joe to hold a safety course. We would need a commitment of at least 10-12 kids before moving forward on this. Central Vermont ATV Club may be interested in a course. Ethan will be the new contact for safety. We're hoping for a revamp of the safety program if Fish and Wildlife take charge of it. We have some clubs who seem to be building inventory of signs. No club needs to have an inventory as that's why VASA has one. They're welcome to if they want but it's not necessary.

Danny spoke with an attorney today. VASA doesn't have any real appeal process in our bylaws. We've never had a need for it. As of now the BoD vote on club dues stands. The way we would need to move forward with it would be a new motion and then a vote on that new motion. All club bylaws should state that the club members choose the club due amount. Esther Searles asks if the club normally charges \$30 for their club, and VASA is only charging \$20 online, where does the other \$10 go. Danny

responds, it doesn't go anywhere. Esther asks if that's fair that they don't get the full amount their club charges. Adam Lane responds, that the BoD voted on this decision. Pete Walbridge states that VASA should look into charging different fees. Nancy Smith then states that if there are different fees then the members will choose the cheaper club. Adam speaks up saying that it was last year that the BoD voted to go fully online, and that VASA would vote the club fee at every annual meeting. Bill Huff mentions that he believes we need to act in unity as an organization. He believes this is one way to do it. The donate button is a great way to pay more toward your club if you would like to. Bart Howes mentions that his club also wanted the \$30, but the BoD voted and that's how it works, and he feels all clubs should give it a try. Danny mentions that the bylaws will need to be updated for the future. Adam asks if there are any clubs that would like to revisit the vote. Esther speaks up saying she would like to. Mark Carpenter asks if the donate button is up and running. Jim answers saying that it's not live on the website but it is an option.

It was asked by a few clubs if there could still be a call-in option for meetings. Gary Nolan mentions that he feels meetings are better in person as call in meetings tend to cut in and out and they're hard to control. Frequently there's also background noise from people not muting. Bill Huff agrees with Gary that zoom meetings aren't worth it. He asks if it's possible to have a meeting where people could listen in but not be able to respond that could be an option. Danny responds that invites a lot of negativities. Jim mentions that VASA pays mileage for the BoD members to drive to the meetings. Nancy Smith mentions that COVID cases are rising and maybe it's something VASA should look into. Cathy Keller mentions that sometimes it's difficult to get to VASA for the meetings with people's schedules. George Barton asks if it's too hard to have the meetings in person and through zoom, up on a tv on the wall. Jim asks do the clubs not have alternates to attend the meetings. Tim Joyal mentions that if they're on zoom then they shouldn't get a vote. Joe Berard speaks up asking if we can look into the cost of having the online meeting option. Chris Putney then makes a motion to look into having the option to call into the meetings with voice options. Nancy Smith seconds the motion. A roll call vote is taken. It's voted to move forward with looking into call in meetings.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Legislative Update: None.

Fred Elliot makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Putney seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed; meeting is adjourned at 7:35 pm.