

Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: SAA Conference Room



Board Attendees:

Andrew Volansky	Rob Connerty	Lucy Neresian
Cyril Brunner	Erik Timmerman	Leslie Gauff
Roger Murphy	Evan Chismark	Mike Waldert

Quorum present? Yes (9/10)

Other Attendees:

Rachel Fussell	Executive Director, STP
John Duston (“Dusty”)	Trapp Family Lodge employee and WATA board member
Jeff Kaufman	Local mountain biker and volunteer

Item	Notes
Introductions	
Approve July Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cyril moves to approve the July board meeting minutes</i> • <i>Andrew seconds</i> • <i>All approve</i>
“New Trail” Vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on trail names • <i>Mike moves to name the trail from Hardy Haul down to Brook Road “Doubly Bypass”</i> • Further discussions on trail names, concerns with name not saying anything • <i>Evan moves to name the trail from Hardy Haul intersection down to Brook Road “Haulapalooza”</i> • <i>Rob seconds</i> • <i>All but Andrew approve</i> • <i>Andrew votes no out of protest</i>
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email etiquette, especially with votes • Individual threads for email board votes, no distractions on email threads • 72 hour time for votes via email • Cyril stated we are doing a good job determining when face to face communication is needed.
Trail Crew Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel working with Hickok and Boardman on forms for position • Rachel has received two cover letters and resumes • One applicant asked about vehicle requirements (do they need a truck), board agreed that this would not be a requirement • Application close date of 08/21 • Evan mentioned if we are limiting ourselves (was under the impression that we were hiring perpetually). We are hiring someone for a couple months and then will reassess in the spring.
RFP & Sponsorship process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our existing policy is that only corporate sponsors are eligible to partake in the RFP process for both STP events and fundraisers • Leslie mentioned that the policy is in place to add value to the corporate sponsorship package • <i>Cyril moves to add access partners to our RFP eligibility for events and fundraisers.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Lucy seconds</i> ● <i>All in favor</i> ● <i>Cyril moves to ensure any new access partners (currently Trapp Family Lodge, Town of Stowe, Strawberry Farm, Stowe Land Trust) are approved by the board</i> ● <i>Roger seconds</i> ● <i>All in favor</i>
Trails Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FPR Meeting: Brownsville. Rachel met with the state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SLT no longer involved in trails discussions, just between STP and FPR (Walter) ○ Concerns over States definition of sustainable trail. State uses IMBA trail solutions, but also wants the trail to be rideable for everyone ○ How much time and effort do we want to invest? Board agreed not much. ○ Erik suggested that we have the Forest Service service representative discuss with Walter (trails down in RASTA) ● Velomont <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rachel met with Mariah to discuss Velomont, waiting for the state geologist report ○ Focus will likely move to Cottonbrook road and that area ○ While we wait for the report we are going to begin focusing on the connection from Trapps to Cottonbrook with Trapp Family Lodge and Moriah ● Boulder Excavation and Trail communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andrew, Erik, Rachel, Cyril met with Josh to talk about communication strategies and resolve some concerns ○ New communication plan in process (weekly updates between Josh and Rachel, trail rides by Erik, Cyril, Rachel) ○ Need to have a contract, statement of work, schedule (pay and trail building milestones) next time. ○ Roger mentioned that we used to hire trail builders who wanted to build a trail they wanted on land that we had access to. Now we utilize trail builders to build a trail we are looking to have built. ○ Original bid was thought to be from point A to B. ● Haulapalooza <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trail committee met on Monday to discuss trail work nights , internal communications to finish the trail ○ Identified a couple of sections that need to be completed before the trail is sees an official opening (Late September with Mountain Ops) ○ Identified Andrew as trail lead to manage the remaining work and be the point person for the trail. ○ Mike discussed the importance of this one person as a primary contact, so that we are working as a team. Chiefs versus Indians, too many Chiefs at this point. ○ Respect the trail leader on trail nights, that person has the responsibility of tools, getting Mike dates, etc. Mark Leach on Kimmers as an example ● Rob mentioned that when we have a new trail, we need to have the trail committee identify a steward to manage that trail ● Very important discussion as we begin to hire a trail person, need to have one point of contact
OuterBike in Vermont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rob and Evan are taking the lead on finding the answers to questions about OuterBike hosting their event in Stowe,that came up during Wednesday’s Board meeting. ● Questions that should be included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What type of audience does the OuterBike event bring? ○ Can OuterBike offer a \$100,000 insurance policy on the repair of our trails in case of inclement weather? Or could they reschedule if weather is a factor?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the impacts of OuterBike on the other locations/venues (Sun Valley, Moab, Crested Butte, etc): positives and negatives as it relates to economic impacts, trail impacts and overall contribution to the mountain biking community. ● What is Stowe's trails carrying capacity for riders and users in one day or over the weekend? Can we actually accommodate 1,000 riders over 3 days? ● Feedback from our sponsors on an event like this in Stowe on a weekend in late August ● Secure income for STP from ticket and vendor sells at OuterBike for hosting an event in Stowe. What would that amount be and how to split between other chapters and VMBA.
EBike Outreach to Bike Shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Because E-bikes are not allowed on Town Property, should STP communicate with sponsor bike shops why the "No EBikes" signs are now appearing at trailheads. ● Rachel will edit the current explanation on E-bike policy from the Town of Stowe and create a list of places where E-bikes are allowed currently, and send to each bike shop. -FOLLOW-UP: Rachel sent out E-bike Letter signed by Tom Jackman and SLT.
Meeting adjourned	8:08pm