

Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2019 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: SAA Conference Room



Board Attendees:

Andrew Volansky	Rob Connerty	Lucy Nersesian
Mike Waldert	Roger Murphy	Leslie Gauff
Evan Chismark		

Quorum present? Yes (7/8)

Other Attendees:

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

Mike Waldert moves to approve August minutes, Rob seconds, all in favor, minutes approved

Grants update (focusing on 10/1 and 11/1 deadlines)

- Outdoor Gear Exchange: \$1500 total award
- Epic Promise: \$10,000 total award, Rachel proposes applying for additional funding for Cheddar Shredder
- RTP: brainstorm potential ideas. Ideas discussed: Baby Bear's at Cady Hill Forest; trail zone near Split Rock in Sterling Forest
- VMBA Grant: discussed using this money toward the acquisition of Strava trail data (potentially a shared resource, or an expense that VMBA could bear and share with the chapters)
- Zero Gravity: \$10,000 available in 2020

Discussion of Cheddar Shredder progress and plan moving forward

- Is there a contract / engagement letter defining the scope of work that's already been done?
- What is the future of the relationship with Boulder:
- Andrew: encouraged about their ability to finish the trail in the manner STP desires
- Roger: not comfortable giving them more money based on the current state of the trail
- Leslie: Proposed a firm rule that all new trails should be subject to an RFP that includes a payment schedule, detailed timeline, scope of work and beyond
- Mike: Proposed getting a dollar / linear foot estimate for the remaining trail from Boulder

Events Update

- 9/19 Sponsor Trail Night at Haulapalooza
- 9/25 Cabot Trail Work Day: Don Allen at Mountain Ops to help promote; main project involves helping move lumber into place on Cheddar Shredder
- 10/12 Leaf Blower: 65 pre-registered to date
- Uberwinter: Event website is live
- Vermont 10-Miler: decided among the board that STP will not be involved

- Stowe Derby: high-level discussion of the event, STP's involvement, and how to make the event more interesting
- Outerbike: Rob and Evan presented findings based on calls to various people associated with Outerbike (chambers of commerce, past attendees, vendors, local bike shops). The consensus is that although the event is interesting, it's likely too taxing on the trails, could have potentially significant blowback from membership, and the buy-in is too high.

Rob proposed creating a trail steward list: i.e. who the existing trail stewards are, what trails they maintain, and where we need additional help. Rachel to create the list.

Paid trail crew discussion

- High-level review of the employment contract for Erik Timmerman
- Suggestion made to ensure Erik has proper chainsaw training/certification (Game of Logging)
- Evan made a motion to approve Erik's employment agreement, Andrew seconded, all approved, no abstentions.

Leaf Blower

- Suggestion was made to get all trail maintenance needs to Rachel prior to Leaf Blower
- Confirmed among board that any non-STP trails will not be included in group rides at Leaf Blower

Brownsville

Tom Lepesqueuer walked the legacy trails in the Brownsville area and has deemed them sustainable / well built. Tom will relate this information to Forest, Parks & Rec

Trail Signage

- Haulapalooza: add small signs to indicate features (drop, caution, exit, etc.)
- Kimmer's: redo this sign and remove the SMBC logo
- Hardy Haul: currently no signage at all, needs to be added

A brief discussion of e-bikes and the current / future state of e-biking in Stowe was had. A formal e-bike meeting will be held in order to discuss the issue exclusively, either at a board meeting, or at the annual Strategic Meeting. Opinions varied and the discussion was tabled until further notice.

Rachel remote work arrangement in May 2020: Rachel proposed working from Whistler BC for approximately 3 weeks next year while her husband is training. Board to take into consideration and discuss at the next board meeting during Executive Session.