



Vermont Musher's Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 8232 🐾 Essex, Vermont 05451

VERMONT MUSHERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2013

Present:

Board Members: Allan Tschorn, Jean Coffey, Jay Coffey, Ken Haggett, Judy Gilmore, Erin Kelley, and Kathy Bennett (Absent: Red Goodman)

Members/Guests: Jeremy Bedortha, Laura Bedortha, Suzanne Tschorn,

Meeting called to order at 7:25 p.m.

Introductions

President Allan Tschorn's Opening Comments:

~ summary of activities since last meeting, primarily publication of 2nd newsletter and development of a new website;

~ VTMA "has come a long way" since it was reinstated a year ago! With the quarterly newsletter and the new website, momentum is gaining; hopeful that membership will grow so that VT mushers and those in VT involved in any form of dog powered sport will have a voice as a collective group with regards to legislative issues and trail use and also to share with one another informationally and socially for mutual gain

~ A draft statement to reflect a code of ethics by VTMA members was developed by member Jonit Barsky and Board member Kathy Bennett per discussion at the June 14, 2013 Board meeting. With Jonit Barsky not in attendance, item not added to the agenda; discussion tabled until the next meeting.

Executive Committee Reports:

Recording Secretary:

~ Ken Haggett made a motion that the June 14, 2013 meeting minutes be approved. Judy Gilmore seconded

Treasurer's Report:

~ Motion made to approve Financial Report through September 20, 2013. Seconded.

~ Budget discussed. Table further discussion of budget and approval of a budget at a special meeting to be convened October 5, 2013.

Corresponding Secretary:

~ Membership drive for FY2014 initiated: email appeal for membership renewals for existing members sent out; table at Northern New England Sled Dog Trade Fair secured for October 5 & 6.

~ Resignation of board member Gail Breslauer accepted with regret.

~ Jeremy Bedortha nominated to the Board of Directors. He accepted

~ Discussion to affirm or change Executive Board. Current executive board “on a roll” and working well together. Motion made by Erin Kelley and seconded by Judy Gilmore to keep the Executive Board as is.

Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

~ At December 2012 meeting, discussion held about increasing number of board members from 8 to 11 maximum. This has not yet been reflected in the by-laws.

Communications:

~ Updated calendar shared and discussed: excellent quick reference; Board members can add or make changes to the calendar

~ Motion made by Erin Kelley and seconded by Ken Haggett to accept the calendar as presented.

~ Articles needed for next newsletter; deadline for submission is 10/11/13.

~ Discussion about audience for newsletter; suggestions: more articles on topics of interest to experienced as well as new mushers and those involved in dog powered sports; Q & A section; equipment review; articles from professionals such as vets

~ Jean’s son is willing to work on brochure for VTMA

Legislative:

- Hope expressed that Gail Breslauer will continue to be willing to communicate with the Board

Trails:

~ Discussion about creating a trails database for the website with a way for mushers and users to report of trail conditions and other issues via Twitter & Facebook

Web Site:

~ Motion made for Erin to move from Communications Committee to Website Committee; motion seconded

~ All Board members will be able to upload to website

~ Website very close to going live!

~ Role of social media with VTMA discussed:

- needed because of geographical challenges; email threads are hard to follow; easier to see on FB who has and has not commented on a topic/post;
- VTMA Board page on Facebook would be a closed and private group; no one can see it anywhere except VTMA Board members
- VTMA Members page on Facebook would be a closed group but not private; posts can be seen on Facebook; people can ask to join the group; an administrator must approve requests to join the group; perhaps a benefit of membership
- 2 administrators per group in case one person unavailable;
- Facebook communication would not trump face-to-face communication or be used for formal motions or big decisions, but for updates and conversation on topics
- Facebook members page would direct people to website;
- Erin Kelley made a motion to develop a closed and private VTMA Board members group and a closed and not private VTMA Members group on Facebook. Seconded by Jean Coffey.

Social Events Planning:

~ Northern New England Sled Dog Trade Fair booth discussed;

- sign up for time slots needing to be manned passed around;

- bags and T-shirts developed by Jean Coffey and Erin Kelley will be sold; this income will be kept separate from membership income; new members receive a bag as a benefit of membership if join at the Trade Fair

- Erin Kelly will look into a banner for the table at cost not to exceed \$50.00

Motion to Adjourn

~ Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathy Bennett, Recording Secretary