



Vermont Mushers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 8232 🐾 Essex, Vermont 05451

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2013

To Be Approved at April 11, 2014 Meeting

PRESENT:

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

Members/Guests: Mike Malick

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. (Not an official meeting due to lack of enough members for a quorum.)

Introductions made.

Special Note: Not an official Board meeting due to insufficient Board members in attendance to have a quorum for decisions on new topics.

President Allan Tschorn's Opening Comments:

~ Substantive progress made in the year since VTMA reinstated/rejuvenated; web site is up and running and has received many inquiries and positive feedback; it is a visual presence for experienced and new mushers alike;

~ VTMA received a positive response at the Northern New England sled dog Trade Fair held in October in Hopkinton, NH; there was much conversation and many new members

~ Change focus from reinstating past members and attracting new members to engaging the Membership; informal networking among VTMA members via the VTMA members Facebook Page is one easy and effective way to do this

~ A huge thank you to everyone who has supported VTMA to create an up and running association in the past year! Everyone's efforts are much appreciated; it couldn't have been done with everyone's contributions of time, energy, and some financial donations.

Executive Committee Reports:

Recording Secretary:

~ Erin Kelly made a motion that the September 20, 2013 meeting minutes be approved as amended. Kathy Bennett seconded. These will now be posted on website as approved.

Treasurer's Report:

~ Erin Kelley made a motion made to approve Financial Report through December 6, 2013. Seconded by Kathy Bennett.

~ VTMA FY14 Budget and Worksheet reviewed.

~ Suggestion made that donations be itemized so that expenses can be more accurately tracked.

~ Suggestion made that a sponsorship page be added to website; this page would be limited to Board members and the membership; donations/sponsorships could be listed as what and by whom without the dollar amount, but would be identified as a restricted/ designated or unrestricted donation.

~ Keep track of expenses, actual and donated, using a color coding system on a spread sheet

~ Motion made and seconded to forecast and follow a budget

~ Board will investigate possible purchase of liability insurance

Corresponding Secretary:

~ 48 members total; 16 renewing; 30 new

~ presence at NNESLDTF in October instrumental in this success

~ Board members will be polled as to whether or not to renewing memberships to: VOGA, VTC, VTODC, VT Trails & Greenways, NHMA, DESDC; also, should there be reciprocal links on between VTMA website and their respective websites

~ Using Facebook is important because activity promotes activity; each time there is a Like or a comment, the original post is "cycled" back to the top/refreshed; important for Board members to be active on VTMA Board page and on VTMA member page.

~ question of best way to engage the membership discussed: encourage proactive engagement with other trail use groups; join/support local snowmobile clubs; be team players; participate in newsletter; social and/or co-training opportunities; presentations and fun activities at VTMA Board meetings; send email to all members encouraging use of Facebook VTMA Members page;

~ Committee vacancies: 2 on Board of Directors; 1 or more on legislative committee;

~ Hoped that Ken Haggett will continue his valuable role on Trails Committee; an additional person would be great as this is a big and important role; Red Goodman emailed in

comment prior to the meeting the importance of maintaining a relationship with Lamoille Valley Rail Trail group;

Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

~ Revision of by-laws has been drafted; quorum not present; this discussion will take place at next meeting.

Communications:

~ Newsletter a success; keep it going!

~ Development of brochure in process

~ Discussion of Code of Ethics drafted by Board member Kathy Bennett and VTMA member Dr. Jonit Barsky; first sentence modified on basis of discussion; remainder thought to be solid; draft will be emailed to the Board for review.

Legislative:

~ no one on this committee at present; no report

Trails:

~ Trails committee member Ken Haggett not present;

Website:

~ it is up and running!

~ discussion of implementing a trails data base; set it up such that people can give information and feedback about trails and trail heads to potential users;

Social Events:

~ No events planned, although Winter Solstice is December 21!

Other Business:

~ A hearty thank you to Jacques for his professional input into the development of the website!

~ A proactive reaching out to the membership to see what it is that they would like to see and do; how can VTMA support them/be useful to them? Allan will draft a letter to the membership.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Kathy Bennett, Recording Secretary