

Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2020 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Ranch Camp Backyard



Board Attendees:

Roger Murphy	Jeff Kauffman	Andrew Volansky
Cyril Brunner	Leslie Gauff	Rob Connerty
Lucy Nersesian	Mike Waldert	Evan Chismark

Quorum present? Yes (9/9)

Other Attendees:

Rachel Fussell	Executive Director, STP
Shannon Mercurio	Member
Erik Timmerman	Member
Nikolas Coffrin	Member

Item	Notes
Approve May Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cyril moves to approve the May board meeting minutes</i> • <i>Rob seconded</i> • <i>All approve</i>
Bylaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed changes to the bylaws (primarily doing business as STP) • Also discussed existing language re board member terms total board members • Rachel to add “Diversity Committee” to the bylaws. • <i>Cyril moves to approve the revised bylaws with the added committee</i> • <i>Lucy seconded</i> • <i>All approve</i>
Nikolas Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group and Nick did introductions.
AmeriCorps Member Update and Vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel had an interview with one of the candidates, Alex, and was very impressed. • Alex has worked at Squam Lake last year as an AmeriCorps volunteer, which conveniently is where Mark Leach vacations, doing trail maintenance. • Alex would start in September, full time and go till August of 2021 • Position is a Stewardship Coordinator (20 hours a week doing trail work rest of the work being trail work days, trail ambassador, events) • Hope is to have them work on best management practices on Act 250, fatbiking, e-biking • Americorps funds some of their pay and we fund the rest • Alex will live in the area, several members in Vermont so they will likely house together • Rachel would give him a 8/9 out of 10 • <i>Mike moves to approve the AmeriCorps position</i> • <i>Rob seconded</i> • <i>All approve</i>
Trail Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel took the time to thank everyone for their hard work , so many things happening out here • More volunteer hours already in 2020 than we had in all of 2019 • Trail Crew Activity.

- They have been utilizing the excel tracking tool and have been providing feedback on durations and work done.
- Some concerns on how much work they are doing, filling in some of the roots, “dumbing” down the features.
- Roger felt that some of the work was changing the character of the trail, especially on Zogs
- Additional clarity required on maintenance and what should stay at is.
- Feature’s should remain untouched.
- Need a little more of a guide/communication/feedback. That being said a lot of their work has been fantastic, especially on beginner entrances.
- Trail Crew materials needed (were using a pruning saw to cut bridge material...), received donation to get these tools.
- 2020 reroutes/projects
 - Haulapalooza - New downhill reroute, rock drop. New signs and clarity as there are some new features.
 - Hardy - complete refurbishment, additional drainage.
 - Kimmers - continuing to see the Mark Leach treatment
 - Pipeline - Also receiving refurbishment, work in progress.
 - Cheddar
 - Nate did an excellent job finishing the new reroute
 - Thanks to volunteers for putting up the bridges
 - Also thanks to the volunteers who refurbished the upper part of Cheddar, lots of great feedback from the community
 - *Roger moves to pay the remaining \$1,500 amount*
 - *Lucy seconded*
 - *All approve*
 - Hardy Haul Reroute - this is at the top of Hardy Haul near Haul Road. Needs another 1-2 days of finish work but was done at the request of Sam to try and decrease the amount Haul Road is used
 - Bypass Bypass - Cyril is walking this with SVT later this week. Will eliminate Chute bypass by using some of Haulipalooza and Triple Bypass. Will be done with all volunteer work and has a couple of cool features.
 - Pipeline - Will see a new reroute as your coming from the top near Slight Road. Trail will go into the woods right as you cross, SVT has approved and work will begin later in the year
 - Schween Haus - Lew has been working with Rick Gibbs (landowner and sponsor) on a new advanced line in Schween Haus, can already ride but needs some finish work.
- 2021 projects
 - Briefly discussed the need for a fall Capital Campaign to raise funds for the below projects. Will shoot to have estimates completed by the end of August.
 - Serenity and Adrenaline (AC Down) -
 - New trail off the top of Hardys Down to Brook Road.
 - Have received preliminary permission from all stakeholders, now working on the bottom section (Percy’s land).
 - Andrew, Cyril and Kelly
 - Edson Hill to Top Notch - Have made great progress with landowner discussions. Will have Tom L take a look to see what he thinks. Will have a dedicated up and a dedicated down. More to come.
 - Sterling to Edson Hill- Still working through landowner contacts on this location.
 - Skidder (Cady Hill) - New Advanced Flo Trail at Cady, Tom Will look while he is in Town to provide us with a rough estimate.
 - Pipeline Bottom - While Tom is in town we will have him look at the bottom of Pipeline to see if there is anything he thinks he can do. SVT has given us permission to do what we want .
- Misc.
 - Trail Counter Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Trail Maps on the trails coming soon.
Fundraising & Financial Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget is looking good! ● We were more pessimistic that reality turned out to be ● This means that were not cutting into our cash as much as expected ● Not sure what will happen with PPP forgiveness but we are expecting to only have to give back about \$3,000 of the \$11,000 received. ● The goal is to keep some reserves for RTP funding, emergencies, but we are in great shape. ● Quote for lumber on Bridgely \$400 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Roger moves to get \$400 for Bridgely lumber</i> ○ <i>Lucy seconded</i> ○ <i>All approve</i> ● Discussed reimbursement for Hallapalooza <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Andrew moves to get reimbursed for \$160 for Haulapalooza Bridging material.</i> ○ <i>Rob seconded</i> ○ <i>All approve</i> ● Brief pause for 5th grade graduation festivities
Sponsorship Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rob discussed with one of the sponsors regarding “in-kind” contributions ● STP will continue to not allow “in-kind” contributions ● Committee agreed that they will allow “in-kind” contributions for events (burritos for trail days or lumber etc.) ● Thanks Rob, Lucy, Leslie and the rest of the committee for their hard work! ● Lucy working on trail maps for 2020. ● Roger asked for Lucy to add something to the map regarding see Trailforks for conditions.
Equity, Justice and STP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given current events Rachel wanted to spend some time discussing what STP can do ● Discussed Blackout Tuesday, STP’s approach with that. Received feedback from one individual stating that we need to do more. It's great that STP has had events in the past but how can we evolve and do more. ● STP is very white, very male, very wealthy, very privileged. ● How can we make STP a more welcoming and inclusive space? ● Rachel has spoken with VMBA, SLT, others as to what they are doing ● She feels that we should be doing more than just addressing it, and need to do more. ● Need to be careful not to be disingenuous. ● Inclusivity in the outdoor space has been a topic for a long time but this is the moment where we need to step up and do something and not just react. ● Nikolas brought up an example from Washington DC where they bussed in youth from local schools to the trails, do we have that same opportunity here. ● STP had talked about Fresh Air Fund in the past, maybe that’s something we can look into and spearhead ● Burton Chill foundation. ● Roger mentioned that our job is to help facilitate and make desires a reality, we can't be deciding what to do. That being said we need to be knowledgeable, ready to listen. ● Leslie suggested a committee to begin exploring this. ● Cyril mentioned that he loved this concept and also liked the idea of added responsibility for the board with potentially dedicated times at the board meeting. ● Rob mentioned that as Trail ambassadors we should really make an effort to say hi to everyone and make them feel inclusive. ● Shannon, Cyril, Evan, Rachel, all volunteered. ● Leslie is going to join VMBA’s Diversity Committee ● This is a marathon, let's think long game
B3 Cancelled - Now What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Several board members indicated that there is a lot going on, indicated that anything we do should be simple/easy to implement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roger mentioned that the trail days have been big trail community building opportunities.• Rob suggested a one weekend a month trail ambassador.• Costume contest, trail photos contest.• Board agreed that we would email suggestions and go from there.
Meeting adjourned	8:15 pm