

Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2020 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Remote due to Thunderstorms



Board Attendees:

	Jeff Kauffman	Andrew Volansky
Cyril Brunner	Leslie Gauff	
	Mike Waldert	Evan Chismark

Quorum present? Yes (6/9)

Other Attendees:

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

Item	Notes
Approve June Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June Meeting Minutes • <i>Cyril moves to approve the June board meeting minutes</i> • <i>Evan seconded</i> • <i>All approve</i>
Membership Highlight Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed who we could highlight for upcoming newsletter, Shannon has been helping • Rachel to reach out
Trail Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed trail crew activity, primarily on fixing b-lines in Cady, some work on Flo and Bears • Hardys Haul Reroute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completed by Kristi and Rachel today! • Bypass Bypass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trail bypasses chute bypass ○ Andrew, Kelly and Cyril flagged this last week, most of this will be done by volunteers but it would be nice to have a small section completed by Niels ○ Waiting to hear back from Niels on what his costs would be, Mike mentioned that we should “rent” his excavator and include that in his rate. • Serenity and Adrenaline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flagging bottom Percy land later this week/next week and then Rachel will work with Percy to get approval. ○ Budget being put together and features are being identified/designed. ○ Tom walked with Rachel and Niels last week • New Sign project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyril, Rachel, and Grady are working on signage templates. ○ Maps, Uphill/Downhill only signs and new trail signs. ○ Routes are almost all up, briefly discussed their value. • Brownsville <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ District stewardship meeting July 11, Walter from FPR hopes that bike access will be approved ○ Working on parking restriction for Brownsville, can't work on this trail on stewardship approval

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Velomont <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with Moriah to finalize the document, hoping for submission later this year, walking next year, and perhaps construction in 2022. ● Brief Discussion on Tom G's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mike mentioned that he reached out to Roger and was going to talk to the landowners to see if STP can facilitate ● Owl Ridge
Fundraising Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Couple of additional sponsors signed on ● Community supporters are higher than last year ● Very close to 2019 membership totals! ● Leslie and Shannon mentioned that we should continue with trail sits, lots of positive feedback and donations. Keeps expanding our footprint in the community. ● Andrew mentioned that he had conversations with a couple of members who felt it wasn't easy enough to join.
Financing Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are in a much better position financially than originally expected ● ~20k above plan B budget ● Briefly discussed additional projects that we can complete this year, bridging, trail projects. Mike put together a lovely spreadsheet, will review at the trail committee meeting. ● Discussed Water Sprayer purchase , is it worth it? Grady and Niels asked for one.
Review of 2020 Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussed 2020 trail plan ● Trail Crew <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would look to hire trail crew for 30 hours a week ○ May include a raise for excavator work and trail management ● Sterling Phase 1 (uphill and downhill trails) ● Serenity and Adrenaline ● Bottom of Pipeline refurbishment ● Bridgey Skinny Progression ● Skidder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conversation on whether or not to include Skidder in the 2021 Capital Campaign
Equity, Justice and STP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5-CSOcYeXk ● Long distance ultra-runner (Mirna Valerio) to come to Stowe for equity in the outdoors event. Has done events with REI. Timeline is unknown at this point, she has been difficult to get a hold of, Rachel coordinating with Mirna ● She is based in Montpelier, has been nursing an injury and has been getting out on a bike more. ● Would be based on the rec path. ● Leslie met last night with the VMBA diversity committee. Funding available from VMBA. ● Leslie and 4 others will be the steering committee for VMBA's diversity program to set goals, objectives, and deliverables. ● Goal is that we want to make everyone comfortable to participate in mountain biking in Vermont ● We are extremely privileged to be in this position during COVID. There are so many barriers to the outdoor recreational space. ● Pride Ride (Sunday June 12) starting at Cady Hill parking lot and ending at Ranch Camp, https://www.facebook.com/events/735279673967519/ ● <i>Mike moves to get \$300 in Pride Stickers</i> ● <i>Cyril seconded</i> ● <i>All approve</i> ● Rachel to call WebSticker after the meeting to see what they can do.
Vote on Trail Costume Winner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board agreed that Schwag for our only participant in the costume contest makes the most sense ● If no kids Schwag then perhaps a gift certificate to a Corporate Sponsor.

Leaf Blower Plan B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brewster River canceling Tour de Valley ● Rachel recommended that we cancel this years event ● Given Bitter Lacrosse Tournament feedback and continuing rise in cases out of Vermont, it doesn't seem wise ● 80% of attendees are out of state/second homeowners (based on addresses) ● Community building is the primary purpose, we do not make much money on the event. ● Rachel raised the idea of a t-shirt saying something funny ● Brainstorming raised catamount trail ride/fundraising idea. ● Generally, the event is created sometime in early July ● IDEAS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forgo gathering aspects of the event and just do group rides (if this is something leaders are comfortable with- a big question mark) ○ Another option is to do an event with no group rides, but something families and friends and individuals can do as pods. Lean into a socially distanced event due to COVID- say this is a fundraiser in lieu of the Leaf Blower and that we've changed our event. ○ Badge idea on Trailforks came up again- gain a badge for riding certain trails ○ T-shirts for the event to raise funds for STP trails, and you can wear them while riding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I'd suggest stuff that says STP or Stowe Trails and maybe stay away from Leaf Blower specific items. I'd still say something limited edition with unique art, that you can only get through this process. (maybe art with a twist on like 'rake & ride' ?) ○ Raising funds based on the number of miles you ride. ○ Set-up coolers and trail ambassador location to create enthusiasm for the day ○ GoFundMe idea- donate at a tiered amount and receive an item from STP. (although not sure how riding fits in with this...) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Couple ideas on tiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$25 Foam Trucker or Neck Tube/Face Covering ● \$50 Long Sleeve Tech Jersey ● \$75 Sweatshirt type thing ○ Send out a survey for members to decide what they would like to do
New Board Member Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cyril will send out to board for review
Meeting adjourned	8:15 pm