

# Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Sushi Yoshi



## Board Attendees:

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

**Quorum present?** Yes (9/9)

## Other Attendees:

Rachel Fussell	Executive Director, STP
Shannon Mercurio	Member
Niels Muschoot	STP Trail Crew

Item	Notes
Approve July Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">July Meeting Minutes</a></li> <li>• <i>Cyril moves to approve the July board meeting minutes</i></li> <li>• <i>Lucy seconded</i></li> <li>• <i>All approve</i></li> </ul>
Questions from Prospective New Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided Shannon some time to ask questions about becoming a board member (expectations etc.)</li> <li>• Shannon has attended the necessary 4 board meetings to be eligible for the board</li> <li>• Erik would be eligible in October, with September being his 4th meeting.</li> <li>• Roger indicated how much the organization has matured, the weight of the board position/voting power has increased</li> <li>• Roger just wanted to make sure that it's clear that there are expectations associated with being on the board.</li> <li>• Shannon mentioned that she wants to be more than just a body, and wants to be able to contribute in a way that doesn't already exist on the board. She is really interested in continuing to rally the younger generation of mountain bikers (her daughters age 4+). Shannon is also really into helping with events. Indicated that STP is much more than just mountain biking.</li> <li>• Roger indicated that we have a good board culture right now, healthy tension exists. Clear disagreements without taking things personally. Working towards a collective vision.</li> <li>• Shannon is also on the diversity equity committee.</li> </ul>
Trail Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed trail crew activity, primarily on fixing b-lines in Cady, some work on Flo and Bears</li> <li>• Bypass Bypass                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trail bypasses chute bypass, comes from Haulapalooza and connects just south of Triple Bypass sign</li> <li>○ After 2 very productive volunteer nights and a bridging day we are almost done!</li> <li>○ One more volunteer day scheduled for 08/19 to do some finish work and work on the section at the top of the trail.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bartlett Reroute</li> </ul>

- Trail connects from the end of Bypass Bypass on the haul Road to the existing Haul Road Ski trail just above the springer miller parking and would connect to the Luce Trail on Trapps
- Andrew, Niels and Cyril Finished flagging today
- Waiting for landowner agreement
- Niels working on estimate for some excavation work on the steeper sections
- Cyril putting together a lumber estimate.
- 09/02 - Epic Promise (Annual Vail work day)
- Briefly discussed landowner agreement, ultimately it does not protect us forever and in every circumstance but it is a good step in the process.
- **Muss Mountain Works (Niels company)**
  - Given how Cheddar Shredder (Boulder Excavation) proceeded we wanted to ensure that we create a culture of open review and feedback for each builder regardless of experience. Especially for new builders
  - The new process ensures that the trail committee walks and approves the work before we continue onto another phase of the project. We also encourage the board to review as well.
- **Additional opportunity for feedback.**
  - Cyril mentioned that Andrew and him are both also looking for feedback on the volunteer work.
  - Group agreed it would be good to get Sponsors, Community supporters out and lead them on a ride.
  - Mike mentioned feedback on social has gotten better for trails (Cheddar and Shredder) a year after versus initially
  - Rob mentioned the bridge on Bypass Bypass felt small and given that it is quite high felt scary. Andrew and Cyril mentioned that it meets IMBA standards (24 inches wide for a blue trail) and that they were trying to find the shortest span to cross the river and also ensure it does not get destroyed by spring runoff
  - Addition of Grip tape and/or chicken wire will happen next week.
- **Brownsville**
  - Rachel shared how many approvals and red tap she needs to go through. Good news is that SLT signed off on new reroute
  - Need to wait for a historic preservation form
  - STP still needs to send in their trail standards (IMBA)
  - Opportunity for our trail crew to build a new trail to connect the meadow to the parking lot through SLT & FPR funding sources.
- **Excavator**
  - Niels mentioned that he would like to get started on some other work while the excavator is sitting near Bypass Bypass
  - He had provided an estimate on some Haulapalooza items (Shark rock after big drop, two tighter turns on the catamount trail)
  - Group agreed that a higher priority would be to fix the section before the long bridge on Haulapalooza as that is not some
  - Cyril mentioned that Andrew, Mike, Rachel, Niels and Grady are now meeting every Friday morning to cover all of the projects/activity.
  - This week's meeting will be focused on finances and what we think we finish before year-end.
- **Sterling Connector**
  - Had to flag a new alternative line as PBF wanted everything further away from the house.
  - Mountain Haus is on board and ready to go
  - Need a contact who lives at Top Notch since they have been difficult to get a hold of
  - Evan might know someone.
- **Velomont**
  - Working with Mariah to finalize the document, hoping for submission later this year, walking next year, and perhaps construction in 2022.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Serenity And Adrenaline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waiting to hear back from Percy on lower section</li> <li>○ Upper section is almost estimated, Andrew, Kelly and Cyril to get it done by end of September</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bridgey Progression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cyril, Niels and Grady flagged some blue to black progression features (skinnies) and also identified some wet spot/problem areas</li> <li>○ Focus will likely be on wet spots for this year with the hope of putting this project into the capital campaign for next year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Eagle Ridge Progression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mike mentioned there is an opportunity to do some green to blue progression on eagle hill (skinnys, teeter, small jumps)</li> <li>○ Will discuss on friday call</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Stowe Skills Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Town land not really an option after discussions with Tom J.</li> <li>○ Roger had a very positive conversation with Nate from Sushi Yoshi about building something there</li> <li>○ Top Notch land also an option but they are difficult to get a hold of...</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Eagle Ridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Niels and Grady repaired the bridge (extended and fixed the middle) near the van dykes house.</li> <li>● Couple of sections that are still quite difficult on eagle ridge, will need additional work in the future. .</li> <li>● Eagle Ridge Connector bridge, also being worked on , wanted to make a larger berm bridge. Ended up a little bigger than expected .</li> <li>● \$300 short on wood.</li> <li>● <i>Mike moves to spend \$300 on wood</i></li> <li>● <i>Roger seconded</i></li> <li>● <i>All approve</i></li> </ul>
PPE Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rachel to coordinate additional PPE</li> <li>● We have chaps and a helmet in the trailer, but need some ear plugs for drilling etc.</li> <li>● Briefly discussed new findings on buffs.</li> <li>● Mike clarified that the safest bet is a two layer covering or just a standard mask. Single layer (very breathable) materials do not work very well.</li> </ul>
Trail Signage Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cyril shared some example wood signs/designs that he, Mike, Andrew and Lucy had been working on</li> <li>● Cyril indicated he had put together a trails signage audit which was focused on signage in Adams Camp. Many trails, even older trails do not have signage currently (Hardy Haul for instance). Those would be the focus.</li> <li>● Rachel/Mike to review the audit and Cyril to finalize written estimates and send to the board for review.</li> </ul>
Infrastructure & Parking Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Start of a conversation on additional infrastructure (primarily parking)</li> <li>● After some discussions with the Town of Stowe on a crosswalk at Cady they mentioned that it might be wise to begin feasibility of extending cady hill parking lot</li> <li>● Larger conversation on parking/infrastructure should occur</li> <li>● Rachel was wondering how she can be most effective on this topic</li> <li>● Roger mentioned that we should do a better job having people park at other locations (events fields etc.)</li> <li>● Lucy mentioned that Cady isn't as much of an issue as Adams Camp, as we continue to expand that trail pod and also build new trails like the Sterling connector.</li> <li>● Long term strategic plan, connectivity, support the tourism in this town.</li> <li>● SE group doing an assessment of Kingdom Trails</li> <li>● Tom Hand works for SE group, might be a good resource for us to talk to</li> <li>● Agreed that we should first work with the town of Stowe to see what land parcels they hold before reaching out to private landowners.</li> </ul>

Fundraising & Financial Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike did a quick/cursory review last night, will do a more thorough review soon.</li> <li>• We are in great shape, but it should be mentioned that we have around \$13,000 that will not happen in the future (likely), grants etc.</li> <li>• As we discussed Andrew, Cyril, Mike and Rachel Meeting on Friday to do a deeper dive on what projects we can do for the rest of the year.</li> <li>• Significant concerns regarding economic outlook/forecast, especially if the mountain does not open.</li> <li>• We can be optimistic on Capital Campaign but we should be realistic. Past performances on Adams Camp 2.0 and Trailpocalypse were not great.</li> </ul>
DEI Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started brainstorming on where we going to head with things</li> <li>• What can we do, what should we do</li> <li>• Nick shared the DEI action plan that the Alchemist put together.</li> <li>• Very helpful outline, had many good points that translated to what STP does an organization</li> <li>• Full committee meeting next Tuesday to get to some specifics and putting together an action plan for STP with goals and objectives.</li> <li>• The outdoors have been a privileged space , how can we as an organization provide a place that people feel welcome and feel that they can be a part of it. Comfort level throughout many spaces in the United States is not where it should be.</li> <li>• DEI update every board meeting, reviewing vision and mission of STP. How does DEI get incorporated into vision and mission.</li> <li>• Rachel working with Mirna Valerio, Long distance ultra-runner. ~\$7500 for her to do an event so we are looking for a way to make that happen.</li> <li>• Additional Lamoille diversity group that may have additional resources to help out, Roger knows a contact and will send to Rachel.</li> <li>• Mirna brings a wealth of expertise and multiple layers of professionalism.</li> </ul>
Dog Policy Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Stowe policy - Dogs must be under control, dogs must be on leashed on the Rec and parking lots , no dogs in public cemeteries.</li> <li>• During COVID - At all times during the pandemic, all dogs must be leashed in Cady Hill and Sterling, Adams Camp. Need permission from Tom J and SVT to make any changes</li> <li>• Concern was that if a dog comes up to someone and another person has to come get the dog and that means they violate social distance.</li> <li>• Roger recommends that we keep dogs leashed at Cady Hill all the time. The other networks would allow dogs.</li> <li>• <i>Cyril moves to purse with Tom J and the Selectboard that post COVID we don't allow unleashed dogs in Cady Hill at any time.</i></li> <li>• <i>Lucyseconded</i></li> <li>• <i>All approve</i></li> </ul>
Leaf Blower COVID Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently not group rides, so it does not make sense to have Leaf Blower group rides</li> <li>• Can we do a virtual ride with Trailforks Badges, not many people have trailforks, or want to use it</li> <li>• QR codes, photos</li> <li>• Cyril to put together a matrix for photo locations and associated cards.</li> <li>• Andrew mentioned that he would be happy to help and we should include other chapters locations.</li> <li>• Rachel to figure out prizes</li> </ul>
Procurement Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEC wanted us to do a risk assessment, need a procurement policy</li> <li>• Cliff notes version <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ \$150-\$1000 - board vote</li> <li>◦ \$1,000 - \$20,000 - Written Estimate and board vote</li> <li>◦ \$20,000 and above, RFP submitted, written estimate, and a board vote</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For RFP's we prioritize locally owned, minority, female owned, small businesses</li> </ul>
High Donors Ride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rob mentioned he would like to do a Community Supporter and High Donor Ride again. It was well received last year.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shooting for mid September, hoping that Bartlett trail is rideable.</li></ul>
<b>Meeting adjourned</b>	7:55 pm