

Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2020 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual



Board Attendees:

Evan Chismark	Andrew Volansky	
Cyril Brunner	Rob Connerty	Roger Murphy
	Mike Waldert	

Quorum present? Yes (6/9)

Other Attendees:

Rachel Fussell	Executive Director, STP
Alex Reiber	Stewardship Coordinator, STP
Andy Haines	GP NEMBA Portland Board Member
Max	Trail Builder for Sinuosity
Erik Timmerman	STP Member, Trail Committee
Nikolas Coffrin	STP Member, DEI Committee

Item	Notes
Approve September Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• September Meeting Minutes• <i>Cyril moves to approve the September board meeting minutes</i>• <i>Rob seconded</i>• <i>All approve , one "meh" from Mike</i>
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone introduced themselves to our guests (Max and Andy).
Stowe-K-Bury Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ~2.5 weeks of advertising• 122 people signed up , \$3,045 dollars were raised• Alex was at the Cady Hill parking lot both days, thank you Alex• Received approximately \$500 in donations and also sold a lot of merchandise• Alex indicated that 50% of the folks came and spoke with him, the rest required more engagement• Thank you WATA for helping, felt really nice to work with another organization• Roger suggested sending a letter, Rachel going to next WATA board meeting• Could we do this in addition to Leaf Blower, middle of the summer event
Trail Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed trail crew activity<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Working this week on Sterling Run bridge○ Spent last week and the week before on Flo/Bears.○ This is the last week of trail crew.○ Rachel had exit interviews with Niels and Grady<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Main takeaways, really enjoyed the work and working with STP, felt that things were set up well (structure and management)■ Niels felt that we could get better tools, E-Bike for the trail crew would really help. He was using a lot of his own equipment since STP was unable to provide it.■ Roger mentioned remote tools (tool cache in each pod)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nick mentioned that a cone/sign would be nice to get for the crew, Max mentioned political signs worked well for him in the past ■ Niels enjoyed the 20 hours, Grady would like additional (30 hours). ■ Some paid sick days would be nice as well. ■ Andy mentioned that they have been struggling to find folks to work on the trails. ■ Cyril mentioned that Roger deserves kudos for continuing to push the trail crew concept, its enabled us to focus on other items and has been such a big win for the trails ● TUCXS (Teds Unicorn Express) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lots of drainage issues after this past week's rain ○ Two reroutes required, everything else has been fixed. ○ Niels was able to fix some of the drainage issues on the berms as well ○ All of the main bridges are done, hoping to wrap up the rock feature this weekend or next ● Haulapalooza Long Bridge reroute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyril drafted an RFP template that Rachel is reviewing ● Brownsville <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ rachel@stowetrails.org can you update this ● Sterling Connector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hoping to have signed landowner agreement from PBF this week or next ○ Still need a contact who lives at Top Notch since they have been difficult to get a hold of, Rob volunteered ○ Erik mentioned that a good backup may be to have the trail start at Mountain Haus ● Velomont <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with Mariah to finalize the document, hoping for submission later this year, walking next year, and perhaps construction in 2022. ● Serenity And Adrenaline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rachel is still waiting to hear back from Percy on lower section ○ Upper section is almost estimated and designed, Andrew, Kelly and Cyril to get it done by end of October ● Cady Hill Adaptive Loop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting next week with VT Adaptive to test bikes and review a proposed Cady loop ○ Hoping to identify constraints and simultaneously make the cady hill climb easier in general. ● Pipeline Kiosk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SVT has approved, wants a map, closure signs, no ebike signs ○ Working on Maps, Rachel and Lucy ● Trail Signage project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New trail signs are up in Adams Camp ○ Cyril to send photos to Mike and proposal to board to add our signs to the website shop ● Trail Counters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sterling Maple Run counter is missing ○ Roger mentioned that we should put something on FPR in case someone thought it may have been a game camera ○ Charlies one died, Cyril has been unable to troubleshoot. ○ Alex got quotes (\$540 each) ○ Max mentioned you could put them under bridges ○ Rachel to share the numbers during weekly update
Acto 250 and Executive Order Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rachel was called by Catamount Trail Association to send the letter to our representatives. ● Did not receive anything from VMBA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel has read the executive order. In summary, any jurisdictional triggers are halted until 2021. FPR and ANR have been tasked with coming up with new best management practices. They will work with Trails and Greenway Council • What does that mean for Victory? Rachel is not entirely sure. Andrew to connect Rachel/Roger with John at Victory. • Andy mentioned that their relationship with NEMBA works quite well. NEMBA has 7500 members, ~700 members in Portland
VMBA Letter Followup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clarity on next steps after Advisory Council received letter • VMBA to put forth some proposed ideas/alternatives and share with the Advisory Council • Roger indicated that he is concerned that we are running out of time. • Cyril mentioned that in lieu of transparent information from VMBA we cannot propose something to VMBA, as a larger chapter (who has the cap) that should come from us.
Ride with Gratitude and Trail Etiquette for 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel has received a couple of calls (two people in two weeks) from non biker trail users who were concerned about trail etiquette from bikers. • https://www.bikeborderlands.com/ride-with-gratitude • Roger mentioned that Finn has been sworn at twice this year at Cady Hill • SMBA would like to work with STP on etiquette guidelines. Lots of new “social lines/b lines” out there. • Can you put information in bike shops? Signage perhaps? • Mike mentioned that both Killington and Highland have signs as you are driving up for COVID (signs) • Max mentioned that we should separate out the “social lines/b lines” and people swearing at others/who yields to who. • Rachel mentioned we should continue the discussion over the winter.
DEI Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.insolidarityproject.com/the-pledge • DEI committee potentially changing to JEDI council (Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion) • We should run it by Leslie before we vote • Exploring how we can change our vision/mission to include Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion. • Mirna recommended that we hire a consultant if we are going to do that, you don't know what you don't know. • Mike mentioned if there is a grant opportunity. • Cyril indicated that he would really like to have a conversation about this as a board, perhaps at the strategic meeting.
Fat Biking Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First fat biking committee meeting happened ~ a month ago • Edson Hill going to continue offering a fat camp pass • Cady Hill will be used in the winter, Alex to focus on coordinating snowshoeing efforts in the winter • We cannot promote it on social, and are asking bike shops to do the same otherwise we risk Act 250 language • Why are we not advocating to do more grooming, promotion etc. ? Tom J was adamant that we do not want to go down that road. • We don't know what the appetite is for fat bikers, not much data to support how many users, if it's worth for us. • Erik asked why we can't just direct people to Edson Hill ? Rachel mentioned that as STP we need to be coordinating this effort. • Within a year we should have enough information to either push forward or pull back.
Trail Grant Proposals for 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Ranch Camp/MTBVT</u> - Loyal to the soil. Three different tiers (STP would be applying for the \$5,000 grant level). Will be used for trail crew activity (specific projects, perhaps Tony/Tamaracks). Mike mentioned this enables additional flexibility for the Trail Crew to focus on other non-town trails.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>VMBA Naming Grant</u> - \$5,000 from Cabot (due Nov 1). All trail grants now have an adaptive trail use portion (adaptive refurbishments). Meeting with VT Adaptive to see what loop is possible. Focus is on Cady Hill (Cady Hill climb/snake in particular). 3. <u>VMBA Trail Grant</u> - No set dollar figure, we can ask what we want. Plan to apply for Serenity and Adrenaline. Sterling Connector is not shovel ready, still need landowner agreements. Rachel has tried several times to make contact with Top Notch. Erik asked if we can just have the trail start at Mountain Haus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Mike moves to that this is a good plan</i> ● <i>Evan seconded</i> ● <i>All approve</i>
2021 Strategic Planning Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last year was a half day (January 13th tentative date) ● Rachel to add to the shared calendar.
Game of Logging Training (Level 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 11/04 for Alex, maybe trail crew ● Vermont Tech is hosting. \$200 per person ● Board agreed that STP should pay for Alex. Will wait for the trail crew in spring. ● Americorps covers Alex's workmans comp ● <i>Andrew moves to have Alex</i> ● <i>Roger seconded</i> ● <i>All approve</i>
Rachel professional development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marlboro college in Vermont has a certificate program in nonprofit management ● Rachel to send out information ● <i>Mike moves to approve Rachel doing the program</i> ● <i>Roger seconded</i> ● <i>All approve</i>
Board Meetings moving forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indoor meetings in larger rooms seem feasible (Golden Eagle perhaps). ● Can we find alternative locations where that is possible?
E-Bike Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evan has been getting lots of questions ● Adaptive loop may force the conversation
Meeting adjourned	7:56 pm