

Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2020 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual



Board Attendees:

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

Quorum present? Yes (9/9)

Other Attendees:

Rachel Fussell	Executive Director, STP
Alex Reiber	Stewardship Coordinator, STP
Nikolas Coffrin	STP Member, DEI Committee

Item	Notes
Approve October Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October Meeting Minutes • <i>Cyril moves to approve the October board meeting minutes</i> • <i>Rob seconded</i> • <i>All approve except Lucy who abstains (was not present at prior meeting)</i>
JEDI Council Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting last week • Rachel, Alex, and Mike attended Mirnas event on Halloween • 25 attendees including Rachel, Alex, and Mike. • Survey was sent out, results expected next week • Alex indicated it was much more about self awareness, your identity, your privilege. • Alex wrote an article about the event (hoping to get up on our website and sending to Stowe Reporter) • Mirna received \$2,000 grant from Salsa • STP raised \$4,800 from ticket sales • STP contributed \$700 to the event. Rain date caused a couple of cancellations. • Rachel received several personal phone calls for thanking STP for putting something like this on. • Leslie wanted to thank the board for engaging in this topic and having the commitment to support the work the JEDI council is doing. • Council continues to review our vision and mission statements • Nick's wife has volunteered to facilitate that process.
Trail Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Brook Culvert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Completed by Aardark on November 1st ◦ Excavator still out there. Adding gravel. ◦ Cyril indicated that it would be great to have him look at the next culvert up as there is a large whole. • Sterling Connector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All three landowners have received the landowner agreement for the trail ◦ Plan for 2021 is to complete the bi-directional trail completed, downhill only trail would be completed in 2022 ◦ Still need to send out an RFP • Pipeline Jump Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Waiting for schematic/plan from Aardvark as well as some of his portfolio

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have received permission from Sam Von Trapp ○ Need to discuss with Trail Committee ○ Also reached out to Knight Ide to get some feedback as he has seen some of his work. ○ Roger did indicate some concerns on parking midweek at the high school. Middle schoolers crossing Barrows Road. ○ Rachel indicated she would reach out to Tom J. to see if we can get a crosswalk. ○ Rachel sent out letters to all landowners in proximity. ● TUCXS (Teds Unicorn Express) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still have some drainage issues. Will be taken care of in Spring of 2021. May need some bridging but most should be armoring/dirt work. ○ Trail is currently closed. ● Volunteer Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rachel to send out a reminder for everyone to submit volunteer hours. ● Trail Counters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alex put together a trail counter presentation that he shared with the board. ○ Roger indicated that he would like to see if we can differentiate between locals/out of town, members etc.
2020 Year End Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rachel put together a year end maintenance report. ● Rachael asked the board if we should increase our ask from \$7,500 to \$10,000 ● Concerns over towns budget and asking for more in a COVID year ● Board agreed that we should ask, we have good data to support increasing our ask. ● Beyond user increases, we have good justification for what that \$7,500 goes to. Beyond just maintenance. ● <i>Cyril moves to increase the ask for Town of Stowe funding from \$7,500 to \$10,000</i> ● <i>Jeff seconded</i> ● <i>All approve</i>
Financial Update (Awesome per Rachel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In general we have had a really good year given the circumstance ● We moved from survival mode (Plan B budget) to some additional flexibility (TUCXS) etc. ● Mike outlined cash balance and some potential plans for next year. ● How do we ensure we are responsible to our members and sponsors to maintain and build trails while staying financially secure (especially with what will likely be a rough winter for businesses in town). ● Everyone agreed that Mike's summary was fantastic. ● Leslie asked if we are doing a capital campaign ● Rachel had a meeting with the Lintellac foundation several months ago. Will indicated that he would not recommend lumping projects together into a large sum. Bite size chunks, focus on each of the trails we are focusing on. ● Rachel indicated that it would be a good topic for the fundraising committee to discuss further. ● Mike said that if we can find ways to fundraise and find income from Nov-Feb that would enable more flexibility for STP. Those months are typically low cash flow months. ● Roger asked if we would get more enthusiasm in Feb/April at the start of the season.
Year End Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Giving Tuesday to occur December 1st ● Both Newsletter and Social Media ● Annual Appeal ● Additional appeal Feb-Mar ● 2021 Corporate Sponsorship pre-season letters sent out
Trail Grant Proposals for 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Ranch Camp/MTBVT</u> - Loyal to the soil. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-application submitted. Waiting on full application. ○ For general trail work across the network. 2. <u>VMBA Naming Grant</u> - \$5,000 from Cabot submitted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will hear on November 19th whether or not we receive it. ○ Vermont Adaptive and Town of Stowe both provided letters of recommendation. ○ Vermont Adaptive is planning to put out a press release. <p>3. <u>VMBA Trail Grant -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rachel is currently working on this grant. Due December 1st. ○ Expectation that we wont receive the full amount. ○ If we receive a naming grant we are not eligible for this grant. <p>4. <u>Additional Grants?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RTP Grant - federal government has not released any funds yet so the total dollar figure is not clear. Pre-Application requirements have increased, lots of bureaucracy. Sterling connector may be a good option but lots of red tape etc. Pre application due on December 11th. Mike mentioned that the adaptive project could be a good use case. ○ MVP/Blue Cross Blue Shield - Rachel has reached out especially with COVID and the value of outdoor recreation. ○ Epic Promise - not doing a grant this year. ○ Santa Cruz Grant - not doing this year .
2021 Strategic Planning Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule for January 16,2021 ● Half Day meeting (afternoon) ● Rachel is looking for support on agenda and structure. Roger volunteered. ● Nick offered his support for Zoom
Meeting adjourned	7:52 pm