

# Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2021 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual



## Board Attendees:

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

**Quorum present?** Yes (9/10)

## Other Attendees:

Rachel Fussell	Executive Director, STP
Alex Reiber	Stewardship Coordinator, STP
Erik Timmerman	STP Member and Trail Committee
Brendan O'Reilly	STP Member

Item	Notes
Board Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussed if we should meet in person (Sushi Yoshi) next week</li><li>• Agreed that inside SAA would be best but that may take some time to get to with vaccinations etc.</li></ul>
Cady Hill Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brendan shared an issue with Cady Hill Green Chair (safety bar fell down on his daughter's head)</li><li>• Brendan said he zip tied it, Alex mentioned he would take a look</li></ul>
Approve March Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">March Board Meeting Minutes</a></li><li>• <i>Cyril moves to approve the March board meeting minutes</i></li><li>• <i>Rob seconded</i></li><li>• <i>All approve</i></li></ul>
Request from TOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Request from Charles at the Town of Stowe in regards to Tom Jackman's retirement (likely July).</li><li>• Charles asked if we could name a trail after Tom.</li><li>• In the past we have not named trails after folks (exception being Callagys) and TUCXS was on private land.</li><li>• Roger suggested if we could do something at the new kiosk at Charlies</li><li>• Lucy suggested a wooden sign, easter egg somewhere throughout Cady</li><li>• Mike suggested Green Chair 2 given how involved Tom was on that.</li><li>• Rachel is meeting with Kristen Sharpless tomorrow and SLT may be doing something.</li><li>• Ongoing conversation.</li></ul>
Trail Crew Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Niels and Grady starting on Monday April 19, 2021. Alex joining</li><li>• Tough to do touch up on Flo</li><li>• Tom Lepasquer to join sometime later this month on Adaptive, Bears and Cady</li><li>• Priorities for Trail Crew<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Maple Run Bridge near Gars Pond</li><li>○ Hump bridge on Bridgey</li><li>○ Cady hill connector has a couple of wet spots</li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alex's trail culvert replacement</li> <li>● <a href="#">Trail projects list link</a></li> <li>● Rob asked if we have changed the hours at all. Same hours as last year for Neils and Grady (20 hours per week)</li> <li>● Concerns on trail crew priorities, focusing on bridges , Mike felt like some drainage/dirt work is really needed (substation entrance) and wasn't getting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add to trail committee agenda monthly to review priorities and provide feedback</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <a href="#">Tool Trailer</a> - Niels had borrowed one from a friend last year and found it very helpful. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mike expects \$375 would cover the trailer, unfortunately each bike used needs a different axle.</li> <li>○ Alex asked if there are options that have a universal axle.</li> <li>○ A good supplement for a tool stash</li> <li>○ Rob and Roger agreed we should just have the trail committee look at this and provide a recommendation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Trail Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TUCXS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trail night scheduled for 04/15, might be rescheduled due to rain</li> <li>○ Couple of drainage issues, and some dirt work left. Hopeful we will be finished in the next couple of weeks</li> </ul> </li> <li>● S&amp;A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lumber arrives at the start of May</li> <li>○ Kelly, John and Cyril to head out to the trail on Saturday to lift/move taps where needed and begin corridor clearing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Sterling Connector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rachel met with Chris Jolly and Ross (representing Edson) to discuss the second half of the connector.</li> <li>○ Edson hill wants a ski and a bike trail</li> <li>○ Chris Jolly to give trail plan to Harry at town to get approval</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
JEDI Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New VMBA ED (Nick) is very committed to this topic. He is actively trying to develop action plans that can assist the chapters to get started on this work</li> <li>● Council met last week</li> <li>● Interest in creating a diversity sticker for STP, already have used a LBGTQ+ sticker in the past</li> <li>● Leslie attended a speaker session that the GMC has been putting on. African American Heritage trail founder spoke</li> <li>● Biggest question is what can we do? Response was to invite others to use our trails. STP JEDI Council to research groups that we could invite to the trails. All in the attempt to be welcoming and inviting. Those who feel in the minority/uncomfortable</li> <li>● Lastly, Council to try to focus on the work we did as a board. Subcommittee created to review that work, led by Nik. Focused on crafting some language that will be brought to the board</li> </ul>
Update on VMBA Post-Cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advisory Council (16 or so chapters attended) meeting last week to discuss the Post-Cap model</li> <li>● Cyril, Mike, Roger and Rachel had a discussion prior to the meeting to look at the proposal.</li> <li>● Rachel was very happy with Nick and Kim leading the session, the mood felt more constructive and positive.</li> <li>● VMBA to put together a willingness to pay survey</li> <li>● VMBA projecting that 5 more chapters will hit the cap</li> <li>● Process for voting and future discussions seems improved</li> <li>● STP still intends to work through formal agreements with VMBA</li> <li>● No chapter was against the increase or tying post cap to memberships instead of revenue.</li> <li>● All chapters wanted more time to prepare and communicate.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nick started the conversation by stating that we were going to have quarterly advisory council meetings, in the past these were scheduled ad-hoc</li> <li>● Rachel spoke with other chapter leads and they felt the communication felt much more open</li> <li>● Board agreed that we were hoping to fix what has been an adversarial relationship in the past</li> </ul>
MTB Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not an STP event but it has been hosted by STP. The primary purpose was to have all mountain bike groups join, not just chapters.</li> <li>● Pine Hill Park, Kingdom, Barkeater Bikes were all invited, more than just Vermont</li> <li>● Focus was on sharing successes and then challenges.</li> <li>● <a href="#">MTB Summit Meeting Minutes</a></li> <li>● Diversity, Equity and Adaptive, and sustainable increase in growth were the biggest topics</li> <li>● Rachel felt that it was great to make connections, grant opportunities.</li> <li>● Roger shared that one of the real benefits was to see the struggles that others were sharing. Validating that others also have trail braiding, dogs, people riding when closed.</li> <li>● Cyril shared that there was a lot of really cool work going on , Kingdom built 13 miles of trail last year, a cool chapter in Franklin County, Burlington bike park</li> </ul>
Fundraising Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Currently have 39 sponsors , things are looking great! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reaction from folks this year (especially businesses) is very positive and supportive.</li> <li>○ Businesses and sponsors are very happy to support STP and what we are doing</li> <li>○ Lots of increases in corporate sponsorship without even being asked.</li> <li>○ Rob wanted to amplify what Leslie shared that there is a confidence in the way STP operates, communicates and the professionalism they see.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Community supporters are also up</li> <li>● Grants (more information in weekly update) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oakland Foundation - \$1500 towards adaptive loop has been recieved</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Rick Gibbs Trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ working with Dana (Mountain Trail Works) to build out Schween Ridge and connecting to an another landowner.</li> <li>○ Concerns from the board on potential risks (future maintenance, existing agreement)</li> <li>○ Board agreed we definitely want to work with Rick, seems like a great opportunity to work with him</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Dumont Meadow culvert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blown out on Alex's trail. SLT would like to see a bridge that's wide enough for a tractor (7 feet wide by 14 feet long)</li> <li>○ Alex shared that he was hoping to apply (jointly with SLT) for a grant through OGE</li> <li>○ Discussion on MOU, is it our responsibility ?</li> <li>○ Mike shared that there is a big SMBC sign right at the start of Alex's trail and everyone agreed its a good opportunity to work with SLT</li> <li>○ Discussion on whether or not a bridge makes sense, why don't we just replace the culvert?</li> <li>○ Cyril asked whether or not we have the time to focus on a project like that.</li> <li>○ Alex and Rachel to work on cost comparison on Culvert/Bridge</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bike Raffle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RFP in progress</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Summer trail work Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In kind sponsors with trail work and monthly series</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Kiosk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Roger had a conversation with Ryan Thibeault the other day</li> <li>● Ryan would like to work with Dave Couch and some others in the area to create a “photogenic” kiosk at the bottom of Charlies</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rachel has worked with Tom J, shared with ENR that town permission would be required.</li> <li>● Some discussion on “changing the map”</li> <li>● Concerns from Lucy and Leslie that the map should match the rest of the maps in the area</li> <li>● Cyril brought up that Lucy, Rachel and him have been working with the town for almost a year to update our maps. Open to new ideas but the town will make a lot of the decisions</li> <li>● Everyone on the board agreed mock up would be helpful</li> </ul>
Hotel Partnership Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SLT has a partnership with three hotels in town</li> <li>● Old Mountaineer Inn (Jed is the developer/owner) reached out (big plans to make it more bike centric) if we could do a round up promotion for STP</li> <li>● Everyone agreed it was a good idea</li> </ul>
Beer Partnership with STP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rachel had a call with Vermont Beer Shepherd</li> <li>● Ten Bends interested in doing an IPA and a Pilsner with STP</li> <li>● Ten Bends has asked for input on the name</li> <li>● Fundraising committee to talk further</li> <li>● Mike shared that Trapps had a fixed run which made it easier to know how much was going to STP</li> <li>● Rob suggested that we should get them signed up as a sponsor</li> <li>● Roger shared that he felt we should protect the STP logo and we should require a minimum</li> <li>● Feedback from multiple folks on what an agreement might look like, the board agreed it was a great idea.</li> </ul>
Erik Timmerman Board Member Vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">New Board Member Form</a></li> <li>● Erik shared his interest, primarily trails focused as we build more trails</li> <li>● Roger added that Erik left the board in 2019 when he was hired on as a part time trail crew</li> <li>● Erik also discussed opportunities for our membership model (pay to ride) to capture more trail users. He shared that there are people who used to be members who are no longer.</li> <li>● Erik and Brendan dropped off the call while the board discussed Eric joining the board.</li> <li>● Everyone agreed that given that Erik had already been on the board and was asked to leave when he took a part time trail position for STP that it would only be fair if we brought him back onto the board.</li> <li>● <i>Roger moves to ask Erik to join the board</i></li> <li>● <i>Leslie seconded</i></li> <li>● <i>All approve</i></li> <li>● Touched on new board members, what is that process, can we add to the existing bylaws requirements . Cyril and Roger to work on.</li> </ul>
Vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussed sensitivity around asking about whether or not someone is vaccinated</li> <li>● Concerns from some board members about meeting in SAA without knowing that others are vaccinated.</li> <li>● Meeting outside (Sushi Yoshi) is fine, especially with the summer light (light past 745 now)</li> <li>● Rachel shared that certain events like gravel grinder and renaissance fair are happening and it will be a good opportunity for STP to observe with events like Leaf Blower coming up</li> </ul>
Meeting adjourned	8:28 pm