

Stowe Trails Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2021 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual



Board Attendees:

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

Quorum present? Yes (10/11)

Other Attendees:

Rachel Fussell	Executive Director, STP
Alex Reiber	Stewardship Coordinator, STP
Brendan O'Reilly	STP Member

Item	Notes
Approve April Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April Board Meeting Minutes• <i>Cyril moves to approve the April board meeting minutes</i>• <i>Lucy seconded</i>• <i>All approve</i>
2021 Events Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See newsletter for more information, discussed trail work day calendars.• Thanks Lucy for her work with all of the imagery• Touched on group rides, does it make sense to do our own rides with everything Ranch Camp is doing• Board agreed that there is not a need to do our own• Brief discussion on Leaf Blower, and the burden it puts on the organization for limited financial gain.• Lots of folks wanting us to ensure the leaf blower happens this year.
Trail Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Niels injured himself last week, had surgery yesterday• Working through workmans comp questions with Hickock and Boardman• Rachel working through how we can utilize Niels in the meantime• Should we hire someone in the meantime to fill in the gaps while Niels is gone.• As an organization we owe it to Niels to take care of him and "making him whole"• Board agreed that we should pursue candidates to fill this gap.• Brendan recommended we wait to see what they will compensate and then make a decision. In general, full rates are covered.• Trail crew has been working with Tom on the Cady Hill Climb, Bears straightaway• Good turnout to trail worknight, Alex hopeful that if we continue seeing this many folks we will get the project done quick• Mike shared that Alex killed it with organizing the volunteer days, presenting STP and what we were doing during the day• First S&A trail night happening Thursday, lumber being staged, things are happening• Brendan touched on the trails out his way at West Shaw Hill. Some challenges with landowners, hoping to put up signs discouraging people to use strava.• Rachel to invite Brendan to trail committee to discuss more of West Shaw Hill issues

JEDI Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee has been working on creating a proposal for vision/mission and in addition adding a purpose. • Nik has reached out to everyone but Andrew and Jeff. • Once everyone has been spoken to the committee will review the responses and then come back to the board • Trying to match what we are already doing today, some additional items added. better reflection of who we are as an organization • Discussed timeline since we last created/updated the mission • Rachel briefly touched on plan for Vermont Adaptive celebration, on July 18, bikes will be available to test out.
Fundraising Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick (VMBA) on federal/state funds available for state land/10 year landowner agreement projects. Rachel exploring for Sterling Connector • Mike shared that this is exciting that Rachel is working so closely with Nik, feels different than the past • Pooling our resources (power of VMBA) to have greater power at the state level
Board Meeting Covid Safety and Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the last conversation at the board meeting , several board members contacted Rachel and Roger in regards to Vaccines. Roger shared some discussion topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a volunteer board without any authority to require BOD members to get a vaccine ○ BOD can ask each other about vaccine status, but unless the state mandates we ask, it is a private health matter ○ We can continue to meet remotely or find a place to meet outside or in a large space, paying attention to VT health dept. guidelines regarding spacing, masks indoors, etc. ○ When it is time to go indoors, people can decide for themselves, again, paying attention to VT DOH guidelines. • Rachel reached out to other organizations and how they are managing this. • Roger was an advocate for meeting outside next month. • Rachel to plan on having next board meeting at Field+Guide outdoor patio space.
Talta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Mountaineer Inn
SVT Pipeline Cheddar Shredder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVT wants to have approval when STP wants to open Pipeline, Cheddar, Shredder • Adams camp, STP is allowed to make open/closing • Rachel called SVT to apologize for opening those trails before we open those trails • Rachel working on a guideline/procedure that we can follow, will review with trail committee • Rachel has been working with SVT on a landowner agreement for over 1.5 years. Likely wouldn't be sufficient enough to resolve this issue. • Need to work on building a more trusting relationship with SVT. • Rob asked how much we push the trapps add on social/newsletters. Mike hasn't done any this year but does intend to. • More work on STP to further the relationship with SVT and put forth a vision of what the future could look like.
Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing many sponsors at higher levels than we have seen in the past • Brought up the idea of suggestion donations day rates as a part of our marketing package • Venmo QR code for trail sits. • Mike suggested a paypal as well for those who are not as familiar with Venmo :) • Rob mentioned that it may be helpful to have a new business/sponsor update if you are in the business you can say thanks. May be an opportunity to do a group ride/tour with these new folks as well.
Tom Jackman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing the conversation on how we can celebrate all Tom has done for us • Mike suggested having Tom L find/move a rock at the second green chair • Rachel to follow up on plaque

Trail Running Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeff happy to be the or a board representative at the upcoming trail running series• Rachel is also planning to attend.
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tom J. didnt think that proposed dog language wouldn't pass the selectboard/conservation committee due to it not being enforceable.
Meeting adjourned	8:28 pm