

Stowe Trails Partnership April 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: SAA Conference Room

Submitted: Leslie Gauff



Board Attendees:

Lucy Nersesian	Rob Connerty	Andrew Volansky
Leslie Gauff	Mike Waldert	Jeff Kauffman
Rachel Fussell via phone	Erik Timmerman	Jeff Barden

Quorum present? Yes (9/10)

Other Attendees:

Carolyn Lawrence, ED; Jeff Elbaum	Kendra McGuire. Teacher at Apple Tree Learning Center. Runs their youth mountain bike program. Interested in knowing more about our work.
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Item	Notes	To Do
Approve April Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- April Minutes- Motion from Andrew to approve, seconded by Rob- All were in favor	
Finance Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mike W: Not much to report this time of year - we're generally in good shape- Of note: Payout on Charlie's recent 'fix' was just under \$3k	-
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- SLT and STP meeting recap on S&A <p>Carolyn reported that it was an amicable meeting with SLT. Both orgs want to find a solution to what SLT has determined is an easement violation (all the bridging on Serenity). They want to give a 5-yr time allowance to solve, starting July 6, 2022. They want us to sign their approval letter, but they still have not defined a 'structure'. Without that being defined, we will not know how to proceed in '5 years'. If we don't sign the approval letter, we can't continue with any work on 'part 2/Adrenaline. May 24th site walk w SLT after we do our punch list of 'debris clean up' and other tasks identified by SLT, and then we would sign the agreement if we find it acceptable. SLT is mostly worried about its responsibility to the easement holders and members.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower Haulapalooza and Sterling Connector <p>Andrew working on a potential plan to connect lower Haulapalooza across Brook Road, across Rt 108, and up through to complete the proposed 'Sterling Connector' corridor. Carolyn and Andrew will work with the landowners to see if possible/feasible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stowe Village Inn 'connector trail' <p>SVI wants to connect from their parking to CHF. CL and Grady are going to meet with owners to walk their land and see if feasible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tool storage updates <p>Working on a design plan for expansion at CHF main parking lot and tool storage area. In the meantime, tools can be stored at SAA.</p> <p>Jeff Barden who works at Suncommon said SC is decommissioning a couple of trailers, so a possibility they could donate to us</p>	
<p>Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail Sits <p>Carolyn called upon board members to do at least one trail sit this season. CL will send out a spreadsheet for everyone to fill in dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Riesling and Ride event with Dedalus <p>Rob and Carolyn organizing an event for June 10th - group ride and then wine tasting after</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Velo Stowe <p>Carolyn said the event is coming together. Ryder Brook is excited to be a part of the event and will do an aid station. Round Hearth will do sandwiches, salad and chips. Entry fee: \$60/\$75. CL's Target No. is 100. Trying to keep overhead as low as possible.</p> <p>Talta would like a little bit of the proceeds for what they're offering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaf Blower <p>STP working with Ranch Camp to establish a date other than Indigenous People's Day weekend bc it is too crowded in town. So far the idea is to have it on Saturday Oct. 14</p>	
<p>Fundraising update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2023 Sponsor/CS appeal update <p>Rob, reported Sponsor revenue in 2022 roughly 90k; this year we reached 98k. A number of Sponsors did not renew - yet we added 8 new ones. 3 Sponsors increased their level, but 4 decreased. A lot of/more time was spent this year following up with sponsors who dragged their feet. Since we not have a number of larger contributing sponsors, Jeff K. suggested focusing perhaps on one or more large sponsors which would not be as time-consuming an effort for the fundraising team. Rob noted that he felt the buy-in by smaller sponsor contributors was very important to have in general.</p> <p>Year to date, we are behind on community supporters, as well as general membership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Event update <p>Secured Sponsor appreciation/networking event date and location: Feb 8 at Spruce Peak. Andrew suggested an additional or separate idea for a Sponsor appreciation event to take place at a private property with a musical group, generally favored by the board if we can secure it. Then the Spruce Peak event could be more of a networking opportunity.</p>	
<p>Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiring update 	

	<p>Hiring committee will be interviewing 3 candidates for the Community Outreach job soon with the hiring committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As for applying for an Americorps candidate, it was agreed that since that requires a ton of work to apply for, reporting requirements, and others, that rely on finding a part-time Community Outreach employee will ultimately be better and more efficient for STP. 	
Vote on Chandra Richter to become an STP board director	Lucy moved to have Chandra become a board director, Erik seconded; all were in favor. Welcome Chandra!	
E-bike decision update	Is in the hands of the Stowe Conservation which plans to finalize at their meeting on May 22nd. Then would go to the Selectboard to sign off, the earliest for which would be there meeting on June 8	
Adjourn	8:05	