

# Stowe Trails Partnership April 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 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
Nik Coffrin via phone	Erik Timmerman	Jeff Barden

Quorum present? Yes (8/9)

## Other Attendees:

Carolyn Lawrence, ED	Kristen Sharpless, Sam Gaines and Barry Matthews from Stowe Land Trust
Taylor Wielage, Chandra Richter, Jeff Elbaum	

Item	Notes	To Do
Approve March Board Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <a href="#">March minutes</a></li><li>- Motion from Lucy to approve, seconded by Andrew</li><li>- All were in favor</li></ul>	
Finance Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mike W: Awaiting 2023 revenue from membership and Sponsor fundraising. Otherwise healthy account for trail building and general operations when needed</li></ul>	-
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Upcoming S&amp;A Meeting<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SLT, along with their legal representatives have determined that Serenity is out of compliance with the easement due to all the bridging, so they feel they have the authority to decommission, but are otherwise looking to work together with STP to find a solution. Carolyn, along with STP representatives will meet with SLT and other associated stakeholders to discuss on May 2</li></ul></li><li>- Spring trail work day: May 6</li><li>- Spring projects are happening<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Niels working on Cady, it's getting there but Bears still soft</li><li>- Downed trees in AC</li><li>- CHF debris</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Jeff K to contact John Weiss re trailer</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trailer update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drew Clymer said they Stowe Mountain Rescue wants to give their trailer to us</li> <li>- Nik said the group didn't want to release the trailer. Jeff will contact John Wehse to verify</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spring trail work day May 6 from 9-1. Pizza from Picasso, Stowe Cider will provide cider and suggested to have the after gathering at Stowe Cider. Mike said great place to meet to start too</li> <li>- Gravel event update. Sat. July 29, starting at Talta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 35 mile loop</li> <li>- CL will put a 'save the date' message in newsletter and other</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Website update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- happening</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Stowe Land Trust Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SLT presented <a href="#">Stowe Land Trust's new Strategic Plan</a> which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land Protection</li> <li>- Trails</li> <li>- Community</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Discussion: <p>Kristen started by telling us that she bought her mt bike in VT yrs ago (doesn't ride a mtb anymore), loves bikes and trails; and her daughter Bella loves to ride the trails.</p> <p>Wanted to Share their strategic plan to see where there might be overlap w some of our mutual goals and strategies, and potential for doing more work together.</p> <p>Rewrote their mission to focus on quality of life, and broader Stowe area community. Rearticulation of why they exist. Nothing has changed in the core work they do. They're responsible for connecting people with land and to recreation. Not every land trust has focus on public access and recreation like they have and do. They feel rec makes it easier for people to connect to the land.</p> <p>Some priorities: Recreation for all. DEI. Schools as hubs for access to the outdoors. Increased focus on youth. Dealing with growing demand and sustainability. New goal: investing in trails. Trying to focus on enhancing trails.</p> <p>What are any competing uses and where can we support each other. Opportunities for collaboration.</p> <p>Nik to SLT: how and what was your refresh for the plan? Sam: SLT tries to do every 5 yrs or so. They had a retreat this time, and tapped into a consulting group to help. Kristen: Gained a lot of information and feedback from community engagement, surveys, etc.</p> <p>They want to have more focus on people not just land. Arc of the org has become much broader, vs just focus on the land. The plan is meant to be a playbook to look at land in another way</p> <p>Carolyn: how do you see us collaborating? Sam: Establishing a comprehensive inventory, would be a good starting place: what do we have, what do we need. Current assessment and a master plan</p> </li> </ul>	

	<p>Carolyn and Mike : offered our trail use data to be helpful to them  Mike: On sustainability - town should play a big role bc right now their capacity to assist is 0. AC is a great nexus since so many stakeholders involved including Catamount Trail  Jeff: have tried to expand our trail users - we are committed to 100% focus on community and multi users.  Kristen: fee for service model? Working together for trail work colab would be good.  Kristen: Would like to establish a permanent location for operations and other like programs location etc. - do we want to do the same?  Perhaps a mutually agreeable location for both orgs.  What are our ideas about a bike/pump park.  Leslie: to SLT: we talk a lot about infrastructure and challenges with same</p> <p>Mike: "Connections". Would like to see ability to get from rec path to middle/high school. Rec path is a valuable resource to build off of.  Mike: our biggest priority: Sterling connector - will disburse traffic, cause less driving etc.</p> <p>After SLT presentation, STP board felt the meeting was positive and that we should pursue collaboration and opportunities with SLT where we can, for mutual and community benefit</p>	
Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2023 Sponsor/CS appeal updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fundraising appeal underway. Just under 50 Sponsor commitments to date (\$41+k, but that does not include checks yet to receive)</li> <li>- CS still coming in, and ranging up to a \$2,500 member</li> <li>- Rob made an appeal to all board members to reach out to friends, acquaintances to encourage membership and at the higher CS levels</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Staff - hiring update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interview committee needed for community outreach candidates</li> <li>- 5 applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jeff K. and Jeff B. volunteered to be part of the hiring committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Carolyn wants to hire by May 15.</li> </ul>	
Ebikes	<p>Update: Decision lies with Stowe Conservation Commission, but they have been buried with other work. Carolyn pings Sarah McShane, monthly for updates.A  We have made the recommendation to the SCC to allow, and are awaiting their approval.</p>	
Adjourn	p.m. 8:11	