



**Annual Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2009**

Present: Ken Robbins, Robert Cruickshank, Doug Weber, Danny Hale, Tom Butland, Rees Harris, Steve Carlin, Corine Nicholson, Ray Atwood, Anah Tuttle, Jr. Tuttle, Dani Davis, Ian Shulze.

Steve Carlin calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1.) Introductions and overview of previous year:

Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves and gave some details about their organization.

Secretary's Report: Danny Hale

VORA had a total of 37 members in 2009; 11 Organizations, and 26 Individuals. VORA produced a newsletter and mailed it to everyone on the mailing list which includes 76 addresses. The website is up and running- if anyone would like to add something, please email Dani Davis.

2.) Green Mountain National Forest Trail Collaborative Update: Doug Weber

Doug explains that the motorized community has been invited to the collaborative, but are not being included in the planning process for actual trails. We will continue to monitor the events of this collaborative and offer our input. The collaborative has now split into three different committees including Landscape, Steering, and Science. Rees is on the science committee and explains that it is a great place for us to have representation because this particular committee attracted many environmentalists. 11/5/09 (today) was a deadline for the committee to submit reports for their database, but Rees explains that others are welcome to contribute and the database will remain open. VAST's pollution analysis is one of the studies being used. Rees urges everyone to check out the website; there will be links on the VORA website as well as our supporting organizations' websites to come. Doug explains that we are still engaged with the GMNF, and now there are new stipulations in place for trails in the forest. Trails must be connector trails and cannot loop back onto themselves, as well as some specific stipulations regarding the land that the trails begin and end on. No one else is being held to these standards. So far, we have outlined our progress and defined our objectives. We are basically waiting for the new ranger to come in. The possibility of needing the Blue Ribbon Coalition's lawyer has been discussed. Hopefully if we do need to go that route, all of VORA's supporting organizations will be able to come together to help fund these efforts.

3.) ANR Proposed Rule Change Update: Danny Hale

The LCAR hearing took place on Tuesday November 3. There will be an additional hearing on November 17. VASA's best guess is that the committee will most likely not respond favorably, which will open the door for a legislative battle. VASA has been told that if LCAR does not support the rule, ANR will still implement it, but the legislature can still shut it down. Danny explains that a legislative battle could lead to us losing some trails that we already have. On the November 17th hearing, ANR will be the only people/organization allowed to testify. VASA will only be able to speak if asked to, or if there are specific questions. At this point, the hearing is technical; the committee is concerned with the process. The problem is that the rule was introduced after the legislative session, and people want it thrown back into the legislature. The media is making this a personal battle on whether ATV's are good or bad. The battle is ongoing.

5.) Berlin Trail Restoration Project Update: Doug Weber

A.) Doug explains the background of the project: a year ago trail inventory analysis of Irish Hill was conducted, and an RTP grant was awarded. On 9/26/09 the trail work began; a bridge was replaced and erosion control was implemented. The work will continue next spring. These trails are getting heavy use, and the town does not want to advertise their existence for fear of further damage but are still allowing use.

B.) The Northfield Conservation Commission received an RTP grant to do some work to the Northfield end of this trail. VYCC will be doing the work and is going to recommending that a separate hiking trail be laid out. The Northfield Conservation Commission is trying to develop a plan for recreation. The Select Board is open to motorized use. The surrounding landowners have been receptive to the idea of these trails having a managing presence.

6.) Nominations and Elections of Officers:

Steve explains that he will not be seeking reelection as President. He will still remain as active as possible within VORA.

- **Presidential Nomination:** Steve Carlin nominated Doug Weber; no other nominations. Doug accepts; Danny Hale as Secretary casts one vote to elect Doug Weber as President.
- **Vice President Nomination:** Doug Weber nominates Danny Hale. No other nominations. Danny accepts and as Secretary casts one vote to elect Danny Hale as Vice President.
- **Secretary Nomination:** Doug Weber nominates Dani Davis; no other nominations. Dani accepts and Danny Hale as Secretary casts one vote to elect Dani Davis.
- **Treasurer Nomination:** Anah Tuttle elects Bob Cruickshank; Bob declines the nomination. Bob nominated Ken Robbins. No other nominations. Ken accepts and Danny Hale as Secretary casts one vote to elect Ken Robbins.
- **ATV Member-At-Large:** Danny nominated Anah Tuttle. No other nominations. Anah accepts, and Danny Hale as Secretary casts one vote to elect Anah.
- **OHM Member-At-Large:** Ken nominates Rees Harris; no other nominations. Rees accepts, and Danny Hale as Secretary casts one vote to elect Rees.
- **4x4 Member-At-Large:** Ian nominates Bob Cruickshank; no other nominations. Bob accepts, Danny Hale as Secretary casts one vote to elect Bob.

7.) Vision & Goals for 2010

Danny brings up some questions regarding our by-laws. The group clarifies that our Membership Year is from January through December. The terms of office are discussed. The President and the Treasurer need to be elected on opposite years. The first year operation material can be removed from the by-laws. Danny mentions that 63 people attended our incorporation meeting.

Doug reviews VORA's mission statement. His goals are to retain and grow our membership. We need to energize our membership by showing them what we can do for them. We absolutely need projects because this is how we increase our credibility and membership. Doug explains that we can write grants and open doors for club projects. VORA is here to assist clubs, not compete with them. Doug would also like to obtain our 501(c)3 status so our organization could obtain grants and possibly equipment such as an ATV for maintenance efforts. Regarding VORA projects, the group reiterates that VORA will not be the work horse in these efforts, but the organization that opens the door for opportunities and keeps the collaborative going. The local clubs will have to provide the actual labor.

8.) New Business

Tom from the Green Mountain Plonkers explains that he and his organization are not members yet but plan to join. He needs more information regarding VORA as an umbrella organization for all motorized use. Tom would like information and educational materials from VORA to give to clubs/individuals to approach landowners with. Doug thinks that educational materials or even a workshop would be something that would be a good project for VORA; ideas for topics include how to approach landowners, waivers, and liability issues. Communication between all organizations will need to be increased.

9.) Next Meeting Date

The group will meet after the first of the year, sometime in January. The date will be set via email and posted on the website calendar.

Bob Cruickshank moves to adjourn the meeting. Ian Shulze seconds the motion. Motion carries and the meeting is adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Dani Davis
Secretary, VORA