

VASA Board of Director Minutes
August 11, 2025
VASA HQ

Doug Stone calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Roll Call

BOD Present: Ray Blakeney, Lloyd MacCormack, Robbie Perdue, Brian Benoit, Mike Coleman, Tom Nazzewski, George Barton, Steve Bean, Mike Small, Fred Elliott, Russell Stone

BOD Present Online:

Curt Girard, Ken Wetherell, Ian MacKenzie, Brent LaBree, Chris Hill, Mark Carpenteri, Laura Champagne, Chris Putney, Bob Williams

E-Board Present: Doug Stone, Bill Huff, Melissa LaBounty, Bartholomew Howes (online)

Staff (Non-voting) present: Ethan Hill, Jeremy Sneed, Erik Moreau and Gordon Pirie

Doug Stone read Tommy O'Connor's resignation letter, received on July 30, 2025, with two weeks' notice. Doug explained that the Executive Board met and decided Tommy did not need to work out the notice. On July 31, 2025, Bill Huff and Doug Stone met with Tommy at the VASA office to inform him of this decision and supervised his departure. Before leaving, Tommy assisted staff by providing updates on the projects he had been working on. He was also provided with two weeks' pay in a check. Since then, the office staff has stepped up through cross-training and strong teamwork to ensure smooth operations without an Executive Director. Tommy also stated he would be available for questions if needed.

The E-board & office staff are currently working on getting the job opening information ready to be put out on Indeed in a couple of weeks.

Secretary's Report:

There are two minutes that will need approval at this time, from July's BOD meeting and the annual meeting on July 26, 2025.

- **July BOD meeting minutes:**

-are there any additions or corrections to the report? -none

-motion is made by George Barton, seconded by Fred Elliott, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries

- **Annual meeting minutes:**

-are there any additions or corrections to the report? -none

-motion is made by Steve Bean, seconded by Russell Stone, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries

Treasurer's Report:

-Bill reminds everyone that this is the 3rd Statement of Activity that we are seeing in a thirty day period (July BOD meeting, Annual Meeting & August BOD meeting) & that this is the beginning of the Fiscal year which began on July 1st, 2025. There is only one column for the month of July 2025. The bottom line is a negative number which is affected by a number of things: payroll is a little higher as there were three pay periods in July and income is just TAD membership fees as State money is currently tied up on the Federal level. So on paper it looks rough but he can assure us as treasurer that it will work itself out and VASA is in a good place.

-He adds that the staff and E-board have been working very well together in Tommy's absence.

-A motion is made by Russell Stone to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Fred Elliott, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.

Staff Reports:

Office Manager - Erik Moreau:

- **Year to date membership numbers:**
 - 4,614 memberships as of last monday
 - Still roughly 600 memberships short of last year, despite the social media post and constant contact emails.
- **Marketing Programs currently:**
 - New outreach to Law Enforcement (connected with Game Warden Mike Scott), Game Wardens will be getting out in full force hopefully next weekend
 - Law enforcement marketing via social media
 - Constant Contact going out to non-renewals from last year, approximately 3400 people, sending links to join
 - Getting ready to do a Fall contest for a free membership, throwing around ideas for possibilities... (i.e) video for toughest technical trail, etc
 - General social media posts still going out
- **Grant Updates:**
 - Submitting reimbursement of LNAC work from VOREC grant (roughly \$75K total) which included the trailer purchase reimbursement
- **Sign Store:**
 - Should be all caught up with orders, sign inventory replenished including green single arrow signs.
 - Friendly reminder to pay the invoices that were sent out please

-Questions asked:

-do we have any Bridge ahead signs? -recommended using caution ahead signs at this time.

-VT DMV has over 17,000 ATV's / UTV's registered, how do we capture more of those numbers? VASA will continue to push TAD membership posts and Law enforcement involvement.

-Can we make a post as a reminder about fines on FB? Jeremy reminds that he does this every couple of months and will remind again.

-Does VASA have a brochure that we could hand out to dealerships that sell ATV's / UTV's? Erik has been in contact with a few of the dealerships regarding paperwork they file with the DMV and has learned that some of them actually help customers with the TAD process.

Trails Coordinator - Ethan Hill:

-The Trails Team is currently finishing up on the CATT Trail System, currently working on mowing, seeding & mulching left to do. Worked on their landowner permission forms, installing a kiosk, etc. Their trails have been closed for 2 years, so excited for them to be open soon.

-The new trailer has been purchased and picked up from Big Tex Trailer Sales. Looking to sell the old 2018 trailer.

-The Great Trails workshop has been postponed for this year, hoping to plan for 2026. It would be great to have 2 people per Club participate in this workshop next year when we decide to have it (preferably in fall of 2026).

-All equipment is good for the most part at the moment, a few minor repairs are being done to Track truck A/C & fuel filter in David's truck.

-Once CATT work is done, the trails team will be heading to GMATV for culverts, then to NEKW to finish their VOREC recovery projects.

Additional Business:

→ Club Tax Updates - Jeremy

- ◆ Annual forms (Charter Agreements, Contact list, Code of Ethics) will be going out in October of 2025
- ◆ All clubs are good with IRS & SOS, 2 clubs are still missing forms (Queen Lil's & TOW).

→ Annual Meeting - Doug Stone

- ◆ 111 people in attendance on paper (125 people total with meals purchased on site)
- ◆ Doug has received great feedback about the meeting. Westshire Club worked very hard to make it a successful meeting. The snowmobile club put on a great chicken BBQ. Amazing footage received from Ed of Guardian Drone Services, he created a video for VASA plus many photos.
- ◆ Reminder, next year's meeting will be hosted by Northwest Vermont Wheelers in Enosburg area

→ Club Contacts on website - Jeremy

- ◆ An email was sent out a while ago with 4 options to choose from, he would like to use the same option for all clubs. Numbers are close between 2 options, which do we want to use?

A motion was made to adjourn by Fred Elliott, seconded by Steve Bean, meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.