

VASA Board of Director Minutes
March 9, 2026
VASA HQ

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

Douglas Stone begins the meeting with everyone standing for the Pledge of Alliance.

Roll Call

BOD Present: Steve Mosher, Lloyd MacCormack. Mike Coleman, Mike Smith, George Barton, Mike Small, Fred Elliott, Russell Stone

BOD Present Online:

Ken Wetherell, Judy Perdue, Brent Labree, Joe Berard, Bob Cruickshank, Chris Hill, Laura Champagne, Bill Faford, Chris Putney, James Sullivan

E-Board Present: Douglas Stone, Doug Wheeler, Tom Nazzewski, Melissa LaBounty, Bartholomew Howes (online)

Staff (Non-voting) present: Dani Luce, Jeremy Sneed, Ethan Hill, Gordon Pirie

Lobbyist / Consultant present: Frank Stanley

Douglas Stone reads Bill Huff's resignation letter. Tom Nazzewski is willing to step in as an interim Treasurer.

Fred Elliott makes a motion to appoint Tom Nazzewski as the Interim Treasurer, seconded by Lloyd MacCormack, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.

Fred Elliot makes a motion to add Tom Nazzewski as an authorized signer on the Union Bank accounts and the Vanguard accounts, and to also remove Bill Huff as an authorized signer on all bank accounts, seconded by Lloyd MacCormack, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries

Secretary's Report:

Are there any additions or corrections to the secretaries report?

-Steve Mosher made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Russell Stone, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries

Treasurer's Report:

-Tom starts by thanking Bill for all of his hard work & dedication as Treasurer.

Tom begins by reviewing some of the numbers on the financial reports included in the packet.

We are still waiting for TAD sale income to start picking up and waiting for some State money to come in. Current focus is to start working on the budget for 2026 / 2027. Dani hopes to have a

draft budget available for the next meeting. Tom says it may be in VASA's best interest to increase TAD fees at the annual meeting in July 2026 so that we are in a better place next year. -A motion to accept the report by Fred Elliott, seconded by Russell Stone, approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.

Staff Reports:

Trails Coordinator - Ethan Hill:

- **VTMP:** Current Construction Season Schedule (not currently in any order)
 - **VOREC Flood Recovery Grant projects:** **NEKW** - Sugarhouse trail, **BTW** - Trailhead Kiosk & **BTW** - Lacroix Property
 - **VTMP projects:** **BTW** - Mccarthy Property, **TOW** - Horn of the Moon, **JPP** - Lions Club, **JPP** - O Gorman, **GMATV** - Hannah Trail Pad?, **GMNF** - Trail 9 Corridor?, **SRR** - Sucker Pond Trail?, **SVTR** - New Loop?
 - Ethan has asked clubs to submit trail paperwork and landowner permissions for the past 3 months and he has heard nothing from anyone so they will be starting with the projects that are listed above and if we have time at the end of the season, we can get to the projects that are going to come in throughout the summer months. No projects will be started until paperwork and updated landowner permissions have been submitted.
- **Equipment:** Repaired the rusty dump body in the Freightliner, fixed the IR Ride Seat, and added a CB radio for aggregate plant communications. A new battery was put in the Can-am Defender. The red one ton has been brought to Mclouds for ball joints and front end alignment.

The SXS's went to the Freezing Fun for Families softball fundraiser, \$50,000 was raised for terminal illness.
- He has started working on updating Polaris Ride Command as discussed previously. He has worked on Billtown Wheelers, Tri-Village Wheelers and Central VT ATV clubs to see how it will look with Roads & trails labeled differently. He is not very happy with how they look and does not plan to move forward with updating all clubs with this new format. He will continue to make sure all information is correct on the app (i.e) making sure width restrictions etc are accurate.
- Jeremy adds that there is currently an issue with opening Polaris Ride Command from the VASA website & he has submitted a ticket to Polaris to get it fixed & will update when it is fixed.

Frank Stanley gave a legislative update report.

Executive Director - Dani Luce:

Overview:

She has officially been with VASA for one month now. She came into this position with a 90 day plan with six main areas of focus: **Financial Stabilization, Personnel & Efficiency, Program & Operations, Technology & Modernization, Government & Internal Controls,** and

Organizational Needs. She has been able to focus on each and consider the progress to be on target with her 90 day plan, The first 30 days have been a priority focus on the following.

Financial Stabilization:

- Review of current budgets / accounts payable & receivables
- Draft budget for FY 2026- 2027
- Review of current processes
- State numbers currently are down from previous years, also mentioned that TAD numbers are currently down from last year at this time

Personnel & Efficiency:

- Staff changes / updates
 - Erik Moreau is no longer at VASA & there are no plans to fill his position at this time. She will be doing his job & hers with help from the current employees. Jeremy will continue working on making sure the CRM program is functioning properly.
- Each position is receiving a thorough review with strategic plans to assess employee strengths and identify inefficiencies within our processes
- Current Staff = VALUABLE ASSETS!

Program & Operations:

- Membership software = FULLY functional (there were a few “hiccups” in the program but it is now working properly). 30 came in over the weekend
- Preparations for renewal of “Big Grant” / RTP income / VOREC projects
- Staff Collaboration
- Annual Meeting:
 - The venue has been secured! It will be held at the Den in Williamstown on July 25, 2026. More details will be available soon.
 - There will not be any political speakers this year. The plan is to focus on getting to know the Staff.
 - Donations will still be needed from every club for the raffle. Sponsorships will be sought to help offset costs.
 - Reminder: it is very important that each club is represented by having someone from their club at the meeting

Government / External Partners:

- VAST
- Trails & Greenways
 - The current Commissioner chair is up for a new nominee. Dani is looking to potentially step up & get on the committee.
- Outdoor Recreation Day at the Statehouse
- FPR
- NOHVCC

Organizational Needs:

- Bylaws
- Charter Agreements - Please get them handed in to Jeremy ASAP so that your club can get paid when TAD \$ starts coming in for your club.
- Attendance - representation at the BOD meetings is important, every club needs to be present, letters will be sent out to those not attending required meetings according to bylaws.

She adds that she is open to feedback, please reach out to her with any concerns, etc. Asks if the report format is good with everyone.

Tom asks Jeremy if all clubs have updated their bank account & routing numbers for TAD deposit purposes. Jeremy says that 18 are currently missing out of 24 clubs. Tom also adds that it is important to stay up to date with your clubs SOS & IRS statuses.

Fred Elliott makes a motion to propose a change to the bylaws as follows under **Section 1:**

Composition.

Currently reads:

- The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Executive Board, a representative and an alternate representative from each individual club who has been selected by that club.

Proposed change:

- The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Executive Board, a representative and an alternate representative from each individual club who has been selected by that club. Any person of interest may be elected by their club as a board representative, barring paid ex-employees of VASA. Paid ex employees may not hold board level positions within VASA.

Mike Coleman reminds that according to Roberts rules, we need to warn of any changes to bylaws to then be voted on at the next meeting. Douglas Stone adds that this is just that; a proposal (warning) to be voted on at the next meeting. Russell Stone speaks to make sure he is understanding this proposal correctly, that the point is that no previously paid VASA employee can be the representative (voting member) at a VASA BOD meeting.

Seconded by George Barton & will be voted on at the April BOD meeting. The proposal information will be included in next month's packet.

Additional Business:

- **Nominating Committee - Bartholomew Howes:**
 - Bart would normally be the head of this committee but whereas he is planning on running for one of the 3 available positions (**Vice President, Treasurer & Member at Large**). He feels running the committee is a conflict of interest
 - We need someone to step & run the committee & assist at the Annual Meeting with ballots etc. The office will assist with information as needed in regards to this position.

- **Club Schedules - Douglas Stone:**

- If your club has an event, please share the information with the office or Douglas Stone so that we can help share your event to increase attendance & get the word out & support each other.

Old / New Business:

- **In person Safety Courses?** - Mike Small asks if we plan to have them in the near future.
 - Dani states that we currently do not have an instructor certified by ASI or the insurance to have them at this time. However, there are plans to have them in the future as Joe Larose (a previous instructor) is interested & willing to volunteer in helping again. The materials we have are outdated but she strongly believes with Joe's help there can be an effective course held in the future. We are currently in the early stages of development at this point.
- Ethan asks that every club contact him regarding the opening dates of your trails. If he does not hear from you, he will use the same information as last year.
- **Great Trails Workshop - Ethan Hill:**
 - Has a date been set for this program? October 10th & 11th is the tentative date & will potentially be held at the CATT trailhead in Hardwick, VT, in the area around last year's RTP project. Potential focuses are design, maintenance & landowner relations, with possible additions of a chainsaw course. The instructor will be coming from Colorado. He would like at least 1 representative from each club.
- Doug Wheeler mentions how impressed he is with the work that Dani has been doing & all that she has brought to VASA in her month of return. He is excited to see the renewed energy & teamwork at VASA.
- George Barton makes a motion for VASA to get a gift of appreciation for Bill Huff for all his years of service at VASA, seconded by Russell Stone, Approved by all, none opposed, motion carries.
 - Dani will work on getting a card for the BOD to sign at the next meeting & get an appropriate gift.

A motion was made to adjourn by Steve Mosher, seconded by Fred Elliott meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.