

7/25/2026

Annual Meeting minutes

Hosted by Billtown Wheelers at the Den in Williamstown

Douglas Stone calls the meeting to order at 10:04 am

Douglas asks everyone to rise (and remove hats, etc) for the Pledge of Allegiance

Douglas begins with a welcome speech which included the following:

- Thank to the Billtown Wheelers for hosting the meeting and thank you to the Den for the Venue
- Introductions of the E-board
- Introductions of the office staff who are “the heartbeat of VASA”
- The year in review for VASA
- A big shout out to all of our Landowners & Vermont Towns that see the benefit of our sport, by keeping the back country open and helping the economy at the same time.
- Acknowledges our generous Sponsors for helping us going above & beyond our expectations of money raised, their support helps fuel Vermont trails!
 - Laquerre’s Powersports
 - McLeod’s Spring & Chassis
 - Walt’s Sales & Services of Derby, VT
 - Central VT Motorcycles
 - Myers Container service
 - Ronnie’s Cycle Sales of Bennington, VT
 - Vermont Composites
 - Polaris Ride Command

And to the following Clubs for their extra generosity:

- Billtown Wheelers
- Borderline Ridge Riders
- Green Mountain ATV Club
- Central VT Quad Runners

Dani shows the video that Ed of Guardian Drone Services made for VASA with highlights from the 2025 Annual Meeting hosted by Westshire ATV Club.

Secretary’s report, Melissa LaBounty:

Preserving the record, supporting transparency, moving the organization forward.

-Melissa LaBounty asks if there are any additions or corrections to the Secretary's report?

Yes, the date on the minutes shows the year 2035, which needs to be corrected to 2025.

-a motion was made to accept the report with the above correction by Lloyd Church, seconded by Bob Cruickshank, approved by all, none opposed

Treasurer's report, Tom Nazzewski:

Financial Stewardship, Transparency, Accountability & Sustainability

-Budget vs Actual and what it means:

This report compares the budget we planned at the beginning of the fiscal year with what actually happened over the course of the year. It helps us evaluate whether we met our financial goals, where we spent more or less than expected and whether the Association remains financially healthy. This year was a unique year in that we had the transition of Executive Directors. The previous Executive Director's budget was very different & there were some errors in the amount of income that was expected to come in from Grants. Goals were not meant according to that budget but VASA was able to overcome that challenge by getting on top of spending before the budget got out of control. This year's budget will be a little different but will give us a structure to base the next year's budget on actual numbers.

-Statement of Financial position and what it means:

Think of this report as VASA's financial "snapshot". While the Budget vs Actual report tells what happened over the past year, the Statement of Financial Position shows where the association stands financially on June 30, 2026. It answers one simple question:

"What does VASA Own, what does VASA owe, and what's left over?"

Assets (what we own) - **Liabilities** (what we owe) = **Equity**. **Equity**= VASA's net worth

Bottom line - we survived what may have been our toughest year yet due to organizational challenges - we came out healthy and have goals of further stabilization and growth.

-Last year's budget finished \$10K in the red. Thankfully, we became aware of the financial situation in February of this year when Dani Luce arrived and were able to make some cuts & still function. We were unable to contribute the previously budgeted amount of \$50K to the Capital Equipment Replacement fund due to the budget error.

-a motion was made to accept the report by Bartholomew Howes, seconded by Sherri, approved by all, none opposed.

Staff Reports:

Executive Director, Dani Luce:

It's nice to meet you, or it's great to see you again! A full circle moment from your Executive Director. It is an honor for her to return to VASA, she started in 2007 and left after 17 years. She went into State Government working for AOT and then FPR. Saw the position open for Executive Director and applied.

- **Transitions and operational challenges:**

- **Leadership** - VASA had no Executive Director from August of 2025 to February of 2026
- **Staff**- An employee in the Office Manager (responsible for TAD's / membership) position left & VASA needed to restructure job duties / responsibilities
- **Budget** - numbers in the previous budget were inflated and not realistic

- **Overcoming the struggles and adjustments:**
 - **Partnerships**, strong partnerships established with
 - FPR, our big grant was executed in a timely fashion & received earlier than expected
 - Dealerships, Gani has been getting out & introducing her self & discussing the positive changes at VASA to build strong relationships
 - **Sponsors** - amazing support from local businesses / clubs
 - **Grants** - Biggest Yamaha grant ever awarded to VASA this year amongst others such as the Yamaha and RTP grants
 - **Staff** - Very proud to be a part of this team. Things were very messy when she arrived as E.D & the staff has come together wonderfully, stepping up, taking on tasks that needed to be done to make VASA the strong organization it is today. She could not have done it without their amazing teamwork and dedication!
 - She briefly discussed their responsibilities and what they do for VASA amongst the extra that they have taken on
- **Improvements:**
 - **Administration / Internal processes** - new software for TAD's was purchased, streamlining the TAD process, making it more efficient. Policy improvements, new expense tracking process, reporting improvements, more organized, etc
 - **Membership** - as of 7/22/2026 4,255 human members with a total of 4,992 sold
 - **Financial stability** - good working budget based on actual numbers and realistic expectations

We have exceeded our sponsorship goal of \$6,000 and raised \$22,500!!!

Trails Report, what goes into our trails to make them what they are today:

“Every great trail begins with a challenge”. Planning Partnerships & Perseverance.

These tasks below are what go into making our trails what you see today:

- Landowner Meetings
- Route Planning & Mapping
- Environmental Review
- Permits & Regulatory Approvals
- Engineering & Design
- Surveying & Data Gathering
- Grant Writing & funding
- Equipment & Materials Logistics
- Agency & Partnership Coordination
- Volunteer Coordination
- Scheduling & Communication
- Signage, Restoration & Finishing Touches

Trails Coordinator, Ethan Hill:

Highlights of 2026 Trails:

- New Trail development
- Major infrastructure Improvement (six clubs; Jack Pines Pirates, Stamford Ridge Riders, Northeast Kingdom Wheelers, Lost Nation ATV Club, Central VT ATV Club, Green Mtn ATV Club and Border Line Ridge Riders), funded with grants and National Forest grants
- Maintaining our entire system (general maintenance, mowing, ditching etc)
- Equipment Fleet management (making sure the equipment is maintained properly & mechanically sound)

Grant projects will be the start of our focus this year.

Dani opens the floor for some questions & answer time:

- Doug Wheeler asks about the Stamford Ridge Riders project, \$50K will be spent on their trails with the national Forest Grant
- Will paper maps be returning? No, we are solely relying on Polaris Ride Command for mapping in real time
- Lloyd MacCormack asks Ethan to update Billtown Wheeler about a permit that is being obtained. They are currently in the wetland delineation stage, and the prep planning stage of that now. Dani also highlights that the VOREC grant which will pay for that project, also contributed to the Billtown Wheelers Kiosk. The new Kiosk is put together with \$6,000 in materials which were donated by VASA staff & volunteers for an out of VASA pocket cost of \$500. Huge thanks to those that donated time & materials to make it happen.
- Please contact the office in regard to questions about opening new trail systems

Frank Stanley, VASA Lobbyist gives a Legislative update which touches us on the following tasks that he does for VASA:

- Monitoring
- Protecting Assets
- Representing our community
- Building relationships

Franks has been representing VASA for 20 years and is optimistic about the future of VASA based on the people involved with the office and all of the support from the people in the room. Thank you!

Guest Speaker, Lieutenant Governor John Rodgers gives a brief speech highlighting the following topics:

- Dedicated to Vermont
- Strong Partnerships
- Supporting our Communities
- Investing in our Future

Trail Access Detail pricing structure for 2027:

Dani presents the following options for potential changes to the Trail Access Detail Pricing for 2027, presented numbers are based on current 2026 memberships as of 7/22/2026:

1. **Remove the multi machine discount - could potentially increase revenue by \$7,370.00**
2. **Increase the price of the TAD by \$5.00 - could potentially increase revenue by \$25,000.00**
3. **Remove the multi machine discount and increase the price of the TAD by \$5.00 - could potentially increase revenue by \$32,370.00**
4. **Increase the price of the TAD by \$10.00 - could potentially increase revenue by \$50,000.00**
5. **Remove the multi machine discount and increase the price of the TAD by \$10.00 - could potentially increase revenue by \$57,370.00**

Dani feels that we should “meet in the middle” and go with option 3 as it is more of a “balanced approach”. It would help increase our revenue which would provide additional funding to support our trails, improvements and club operations while maintaining our members' trust and support by not causing major “sticker shock” to our members.

-Kurt Girard makes a motion to go with option 3, increase the TAD by \$5.00 and eliminate the multi machine discount. Seconded by Chris Putney, approved by the majority of members, opposed by 3, the motion carries & is approved.

Douglas Stone speaks on behalf of all that Bill Huff did for the organization while he was on the Executive Board as Treasurer. He was a huge part of the E-board during a time of a lot of challenges and positive changes for VASA & we owe him a big Thank you for all he did for VASA..

Officer Elections:

Open Positions that are up for vote with nominations that were received prior to the meeting and accepted.

○ Vice President:

- **Bartholomew Howes of the Jack Pines Pirates**
- **George Barton of the Southern VT Trail Riders**
- Douglas Stone asks if there are any further nominations from the floor (asked 3 times). Hearing none.
- Each candidate gave a small speech on why they are the best candidate
 - We initiate a paper ballot and the majority of votes go to George Barton.

○ Treasurer:

- **Tom Nazzewski of the Stamford Ridge Riders, interim treasurer willing to continue in the position:**
- Douglas asks if there are any further nominations from the floor (asked 3 times). Hearing none.

- A motion is made from the floor for the Secretary to cast a vote and is seconded.
- Melissa LaBounty casts a vote for Tom Nazzewski to continue as Treasurer.

○ **Member at Large:**

■ **Mike Smith of the Stamford Ridge Riders:**

- Douglas asks if there are any further nominations from the floor (asked 3 times). Hearing none.
 - A motion is made from the floor for the Secretary to cast a vote and is seconded.
 - Melissa LaBounty casts a vote for Mike Smith for Member at Large.

Old Business, Continuing our work, Building our future:

- NONE

New Business, New Ideas, Opportunities, Stronger Together:

- NONE

THANK YOU to everyone who makes what we do possible, together, we build more trails. We build community. We build legacy. We build the future.

- **Our Sponsors** - your support funds our mission and helps keep our trails strong for today and tomorrow
- **Our Clubs** - your dedication, leadership and countless hours keep the trails thriving across the state
- **Our Board of Directors** - your vision, guidance and commitment to our organization helps us move forward
- **Our Staff** - your hard work, expertise and passion drive our mission on a daily basis
- **Our Landowners** - your generosity and trust allow us access to the land we all enjoy and depend on
- **Our Volunteers** - your time and energy are the backbone of everything we achieve

Steve Mosher makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am and a second is received from the floor. Let's get ready to eat at noon when the food is ready!