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Minutes of the Vermont Passenger Tramway Board Meeting
Held April 25, 2019, at the Vermont Department of Labor
5 Green Mountain Drive, Montpelier, Vermont

Board Members & Staff present: Board Chair: Michael Harrington; Board members: Scott Reeves, Kirsten Ericksen, Michael Tarricone, and Sam Kessler. Fiscal Director: Chad Wawrzyniak; Staff Members: Mike Nellis, Michael Morelli, Jack Savasta, Erin Sylvia. Judy Bourbeau attends via phone.

Public present: John Hammond, David Moulton, Jasen Bellamy, EB Kinney, Molly Mahar, Matt Lillard, Jeff Temple, Tim Brosnan, Mark Delaney, Jeff Hammell, Jeff Cousineau.

Chair, Deputy Commissioner Harrington calls the meeting to order at 1:02 pm, with introductions around the room. He announces the new public board member, Sam Kessler.

Sam introduces himself, provides to the group that he is from Montpelier, currently employed at Collins Aerospace, as a Chemical Engineer. He is a life-long skier, to include sitting as head judge in the Ski the East Tour, and currently is a coach for Capital Soccer Club.

Welcome to the Board Sam.

Approval of the November 29, 2018 meeting minutes.

Board Member, Scott Reeves makes motion to approve the minutes.

Board Member, Kirsten Ericksen second the motion.

All members in favor

One abstention of board member, Sam Kessler as he was not present at meeting.

Board Member, Scott Reeves asks for the status of the Mad River variance regarding No. 4, Practice lift.

Mike Nellis states the parts delivery was been delayed, therefore granting an extension up to June 1, 2019 to install the upgraded emergency brake. This was to allow the resort to get through the current ski season.

Budget Update: Fiscal Director, Chad Wawrzyniak

Director Wawrzyniak provides the group with an operational budget report, with figures from July 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019. He states the budget is running currently 3% over what he would like to have seen on a straight-line target. However, he states this will come down as the fiscal year winds down. He also states the cash balance account provides security if the budget should go over.

Board Member, Michael Tarricone asks if the cash balance is including in the provided budget.

Director Wawrzyniak states that no, this is an operations budget only.

There are no questions regarding the budget report at this time.

Summer Apprenticeship Status: presented by Molly Mahar, President of Vermont Ski Area Association.

Ms. Mahar states she has polled around the state to find out what the demand is in each area regarding any summer apprenticeship classes. The specific data is 23 people need Level 1, 19 people need Level 2, and 6 people need Level 3. These totals are throughout the entire state.

July Bourbeau asks that once the number of students are confirmed, to let her know so she can set the target date for classes to begin, as well as order any needed books.

Chair, Deputy Michael Harrington, advises the group that there is currently a piece of legislation going through the State House asking for approval for the Apprenticeship program to become part of the Passenger Tramway budget. More to come on that as the legislature ends.

Deputy Harrington states the importance of creating a more organized and equitable program in the future.

Board Member, Scott Reeves asks to confirm a start date for classes as July 16. Also stating that Stowe would like to host the level 2 class. Judy Bourbeau confirms the start date, and will send out a group email to all involved participants for more specific details, such as needed books, as the time gets closer.

Mike Nellis adds that the National Ski Area Association (NSAA) has created a three-year training for lift mechanics. Mike asks the group how they feel about combining some of the Vermont apprenticeship curriculum with new NSAA training program.

Jeff Temple adds that the program is not an exact curriculum, it is more of what the industry has put together as a guide, advising what they feel a mechanic should have for overall knowledge. It is targeting both management of a resort, as well as a head mechanic.

Board member, Scott Reeves believes we should form a subcommittee, stating that the Vermont curriculum has not be revised in over ten years. This subcommittee will be Mike Nellis, Judy Bourbeau, Tim Bronsan, Greg Carter, and Brooke Kasmien.

Winter Season Wrap-Up: presented by Inspector Mike Nellis

There were 27 open ski areas this past season, comprises a total of 207 lifts. Hermitage and Plymouth Notch did not open at all.

There were four new lifts installed during this past season to include two at Killington, one at Magic Mountain and one at Stratton Mountain.

There were six rope evacuations; this is higher than the average 2 to 3 normally.

Recordable falls from lifts (over six feet) totaled 11.

Molly Mahar asks if there is an average to provide. Mike states this has been tracked for the past four years, in the hopes to provide an accurate average number in the future.

Board member, Scott Reeves would like to see a goal set to reduce this number by 50%. He believes we should be proactive rather than reactive.

Jeff Temple would ask to see the past four year of reports to review and compare some of the causes and trends.

Summer Operations: presented by Inspector Mike Nellis

A total of 13 areas will be open for the summer season. The new areas that are opening lifts for summer operations include Stratton Mountain and Magic Mountain.

Summer Construction is underway, with Killington, Magic Mountain, Ascutney, and Vermont National Guard in Jericho will begin soon.

Mike reminds the group that if you have a modification on a lift, such as a new drive, be sure to let the area inspector know and complete the modification form. There are currently 11 modifications planned throughout the state at this time.

Doppelmayr Safety Alert Bulletin (SA-19-002): presented by Inspector Mike Nellis

Concrete Counterweight Block Failure- Scope

Any lift installation utilizing concrete counterweights are affected by this bulletin. Inspection of the counterweights is mandatory and Doppelmayr shall be contacted regarding additional measures required, within seven days from the receipt of this bulletin.

Mike Nellis states that of the 44 affected Vermont lifts, 6 of them have cracks or some type of problem. Doppelmayr is going to issue a second bulletin to advise how to repair these counterweights. Mike provides the Board with his tracking worksheet for the 44 lifts.

Board member, Kirsten Ericksen asks of the six lifts that had indications, were they all Hall lifts.

Mike states that no, there were more than just the Hall lifts. The vertical rebar was missing on these specific counterweights; this was one of the problems.

Board member, Mike Tarricone asks if this issue will change how the lift inspections are conducted in the future.

Inspector Nellis states that it will be more of a focus than it has been in the past and he plans to add it to the inspection forms as a checkpoint.

New Ski Lift Testing Forms: presented by Inspector Mike Nellis

The two new testing forms are an Acceptance Test and Dynamic Test, commonly referred to as the load tests.

Acceptance test reports are provided by the manufacturer of a lift, or at times provided by the Engineer.

This testing is done over a three-day period by the Tramway Inspectors.

Dynamic Test is required every seven years. This testing takes one day.

The forms were updated as there were errors in the figures for load calculations. When the figures provided by the ski areas are compared to the previous dynamic tests, they did not match.

It is the hope of the new forms will provide more accuracy because the calculations are now a part of the form itself. The form is on line and if the ski areas have any questions they should contact an inspector.

The goal is to never overload a lift.

Public Comment:

A member of the public asks what is the status of the ANSI –B77 and Addendum at this time. Chair Deputy Harrington states he has asked Director Steve Monahan and no updates have been provided at this time.

Board member, Scott Reeves asks if it will be adopted during this Legislative season. Chair, Deputy Harrington states he will need more clarification from Steve before answering. Jeff Temple discusses some of the concern over the work carrier changes and how to marry the old code and the new code.

Director of Workers Compensation and Safety, Steve Monahan enters the meeting at this time. He addresses the Board with an update on the ANSI-B77 and Addendum adoption status. He states the earliest date this could be completed in his estimation is September 2019. In the meantime, there is no requirement for the ski areas to comply with the changes.

Public member asks if the Addendum is available for the public to review at this time. Director Monahan states that it is. It will be uploaded to the website soon.

No further questions or comments at this time.

Possible dates for future meeting July 25, 2019

Board member, Mike Tarricone makes motion to adjourn
Kirsten Ericksen seconds
Meeting Adjourned.

DRAFT