



**Minutes of the Vermont Passenger Tramway Board Meeting held on
September 29, 2022, at the Vermont Department of Labor,
5 Green Mountain Drive, Montpelier, Vermont**

Board Members and Staff present as well as virtually: Board Chair, Commissioner Michael Harrington; Board Members: Scott Reeves, Kirsten Ericksen; Staff Members: Mike Nellis; CFO, Chad Wawrzyniak; Director, Dirk Anderson; Michael Morelli; Robert Swift.

Public Members: Attending virtually.

Board Chair, Michael Harrington calls this meeting to order on 1:05pm. With introductions and advising that Board member, Sam Kessler has stepped down due to relocating out of state. The Governor's office, Board of Commissions is currently working on his replacement. The group was also introduced to the new Passenger Tramway Inspector, Rob Swift. Rob comes to the department with lots of skills and expertise from his past experience with the Middlebury Snowbowl, as well as many other ski areas. Welcome Rob.

Approval of the April 14, 2022, minutes.

Board Member, Kirsten Ericksen makes motion to approve.

Board Member, Scott Reeves seconds the motion.

All in favor.

Approved

Budget Update, CFO Chad Wawrzyniak

Chad provides an up-to-date budget that he advises was over the expected budget at this time of year by approximately \$9,000.00. The cause for this was the unanticipated retirement payout for Jack Savasta. However, he further explains that if not for this expense, the budget would be in the positive by approximately \$5351.00. All other line-item expenses were on par for what was expected. The actual shortfall for FY22 was only \$2000.00. The cash account has a cushion balance of \$33,000.00.

Board member, Scott Reeves asks if the upcoming fiscal budget amount is based on the new construction and modifications that are in the works for both Stowe and Mount Snow or does the voted-on fee due

amount only cover a base line amount to fulfill the required amount and the new construction is considered extra.

CFO, Wawrzyniak explains that all new construction and modifications are put into a computer program that calculates the 5X & 2X factors to give us the most accurate amount needed to fulfill the budget. So yes, it considers the current anticipated construction.

Board Chair, Michael Harrington brings forth the discussion of anticipating budget increases in the years to come and perhaps considering building in a cushion of \$20, 000 ahead of time in order to have the money already collected.

Board member Scott Reeves supports this idea and states again, that is what he means when he talks about having a base amount to collect and the construction increases would be additional cushion money so to speak from year to year.

The group agrees to run more reports and provide up to date figures at the fee due rate meeting.

Stowe variance request: presented by Karen Wagner.

Stowe is asking to allow the use of snow bikes on their detachable six place chair, No 1106. Inspector, Mike Nellis states that he is comfortable with starting the variance process, providing them with temporary approval, pending acceptance testing, and all ramps are built, and lastly an evacuation and demonstration for loading and unloading has been approved.

Board member, Scott Reeves excludes himself from any voting or discussion regarding this variance. Karen Wagner is happy with the temporary approval and requirements listed for final approval. This variance request will be revisited at the next meeting.

ANSI-B77 and Addendum Update: Presented by Director Dirk Anderson.

Dirk states that the new ANSI-B77 has been published and copies have been ordered for staff. The team has come up with the completed draft addendum to accompany the new code. There are many edits to work through. Because the addendum was drafted over a long period of time, it has been decided that Erin would rewrite the entire document to keep it uniform.

The goal is to get the rule making process underway, with a timeline of six months.

Board member, Scott Reeves suggests that Mike and his team start having conversations with lift managers about the new code and addendum so that everyone has a heads up.

Inspector, Mike Nellis states he has been trying to do just that, specifically addressing work carriers.

Apprenticeship Update: Alicia O’Gorman Ski Area Association.

Alicia would like to first clarify that the Tramway Budget for the upcoming year still includes the support for the apprenticeship program like it has in the past.

CFO, Wawrzyniak states that yes, they have included that amount in the upcoming budget, and it will be further addressed at the fee due meeting.

The apprenticeship program started this year with 46 students and ended with 38. Twenty-one of them were at the Level Two. One change was they started the classes earlier in the season, this was a positive change allowing for final grades to be provided earlier as well. They are working on updating tests, as well as streamlining the syllabus.

Mountain Update: Presented by Mike Nellis

A welcome again to Rob Swift, he is already doing inspections. Twelve areas were running this summer, with 22 lifts.

Stowe and Mount Snow are installing new lifts, and 4 modifications at other resorts for the upcoming season.

Reminders to the areas, please be ready for your inspections and notify your inspector when you are ready. The new all-encompassing form is ready for use, should streamline the documentation greatly.

Public Comment:

No public comment at this time.

Contact information for Rob Swift will be forwarded to those that are requesting it.

A date in the next two weeks will be sent to the Board for the Fee due voting.

Board Member, Kirsten Ericksen makes motion to adjourn.

Board Member, Scott Reeves seconds the motion.

All in favor

Adjourned.



Passenger Tramway Board Meeting

Fee Due Voting

October 6, 2022

Board Chair, Michael Harrington calls this meeting to order at 11:03am.

Today there is a quorum, with the attendance of Mike Tarricone. The two agenda items are to review the temporary Stowe variance and to vote on the Fee due state.

Michael asks Mike Nellis to brief Mike Tarricone and the group again on this Stowe Variance.

Stowe variance request

Mike Nellis states that Stowe Mountain is installing a new six pack chair, Sunrise. They are asking to allow snow bikes on this new lift. To date, all the paperwork has been completed, however based on the fact it is currently being installed, no on-site evaluations have been done. The tramway inspector will need to see the loading and unloading demonstration, as well as the evacuation.

Board member, Mike Tarricone asks if the lifts that are currently allowed to use snow bikes, will operate under the same operating procedures.

Inspector, Mike Nellis states that yes, it would be all the same procedures currently in place.

Board Member, Kirsten Erickson makes motion to approve the variance with the completion of the onsite evaluations.

Board Member, Mike Tarricone seconds the motion.

Board Member, Scott Reeves has abstained from the vote.

Approved.

Approval of funding the Apprenticeship Program for upcoming year.

Board Chair, Michael Harrington would like an official vote from the board on this matter. It has been presented to the Board to build in \$15,000 in funds from the Tramway budget allocated to the apprenticeship program.

Board Member, Mike Tarricone makes motion to approve the amount.

Board Member, Scott Reeves seconds the motion.

Approved by the Board.

Approval of the Fee Due fiscal year 2023: Presented by Board Chair, Michael Harrington

As discussed, the budget remains similar to the previous year at \$455, 000.00, which includes the \$15,000.00 allocated to the apprenticeship program. It has also been suggested by board members to collect an additional \$20,000.00 to allow a cushion to bridge any gaps in the following year, with the idea of lessening the burden on Mountains all at once. This would also allow new construction fees and modification fees to become more of bonus money to the budget from year to year.

Director, Dirk Anderson adds that because the new detachable quad at Mount Snow was just added in to the budget, this raises the amount an additional \$18,000.00 for a fee due of \$.655 for a grand total of \$470, 912.00.

Board Chair, Michael Harrington reminds the group that typically the operating budgets increase by 3%, as well as the program may be looking at buying a new four wheeler in the next year.

Board Member, Scott Reeves makes motion to approve the fee due at \$.655 for the upcoming year.

Board Member, Mike Tarricone seconds

All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned.