

**Minutes of the Vermont Passenger Tramway Board Meeting
Held on: May 9th, 2024, at 5 Green Mountain Dr. Montpelier VT.**

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Harrington at 1:04 p.m.

Board Members present: Tom Buchanan, Commissioner M. Harrington, Kirsten Ericksen, Scott Reeves & Michael Tarricone.

Others Present: Dirk Anderson (VDOL Tramway Director), Mike Nellis, Rob Swift, and Mike Morelli (VDOL Tramway Inspectors), Chad Wawrzyniak VDOL CFO, and Jeff Hamel (USFS).

Joined Virtually: Gary Gendimenico and Mark Fletcher (Stowe Mtn.), Josh Clement (Killington), Colin Cascadden (Sugarbush), Rowen Hawthorne (VDOL Principal Assistant), Matt Lillard (Mad River Glen), Mike McAdoo (Smugglers’ Notch), Alicia O’Gorman (Ski Vermont), and some other unidentified participants.

Commissioner M. Harrington welcomed everyone and ran down the agenda to make sure no items were left out.

Commissioner Harrington allowed Board member T. Buchanan to bring up proposed edits of our prior Dec. 12th, 2023, meeting minutes as follows:

There are three amendments I'd like to make to the Minutes.

1.-The first one is on the first page we need to mention the minutes approved were for the meeting on November 2nd, 2023.

2.-To add the following language to fill a gap on the narrative as follows: Regarding the new rule, the board voted to move the project forward as edited, granted the department has the authority to file the complete rule with LCAR, the department will provide a finished final draft to the board before filing, and the board can object, but absent objection, the rule will be filed.

3.-The items concerning M. Lillard’s conversation about the eclipse: Amend the last line of the minutes by striking “January” and it should read: We will talk about it in the next meeting.

<p>Motion: To Approve minutes with suggested amendments. By: T. Buchanan</p>	<p>Second: By: Kirsten Ericksen</p>	<p>In Favor: All</p>
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Chad Wawrzyniak presented an update on the budget with some good and bad news as he stated: We're running about \$18,000 in the hole as of the end of March, the good news is that we have \$18,000 in reserves. He moved to explain that preparing a budget almost 2 years in advance, there will always be a lot of "unknowns". A discussion followed about the ability to carry forward unspent funds from prior fiscal years, the desire to maintain some reserves in order to avoid spikes in the fee due state from year to year, and the Department's ability to cover minor budget shortfalls.

Variances:

Scott Reeves recused himself as board member to avoid bias. Leaving Gary Gendimenico and Mark Fletcher to present the variance request for Stowe Mountain pertaining to Code requirements stating that any buildings or structures that are within 100 ft. of any part of the lift will need an alarm system tied into the lift per 3.05D ii of the ANSI B77. Stowe is requesting a variance based on the construction of private residences within 100 feet of the Adventure Triple lift line, over which Stowe Mountain Resort has no jurisdiction. In support of the variance request, Stowe Mountain Resort presented enhanced safety protocols to be implemented by its lift operators.

<p>Motion: To grant variance to Stowe Mtn Resort for 3 years as discussed, they will work with homeowners to achieve compliance and to maintain proper emergency plan/notification procedures. By: T. Buchanan</p>	<p>Second: M. Tarricone</p>	<p>In favor: All Abstention: 1</p>
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The variance requested by Bolton Valley to allow "snowbike" access to the following lifts (Tramway Lift Number): Mid-Mountain (8802), Vista(8804), and Timberline(8805) was tabled. Commissioner Harrington asked that Bolton resubmit the variance request in accordance with new Board Rule 3.01(a).

Mike Nellis report: 28 Ski areas were inspected this year, with 6 ski areas not operating. He also reported 18 (over 6') falls from lifts with most of them being kids. He continued with his report of summer construction being slow. Regarding major lift modifications, he mentioned only a few will be happening this year.

As a side note: Scott Reeves gave a report of an initiative at Vail Resorts working towards "seat targets" and "kids on lifts".

Dirk Anderson's update on rule making process (ANSI B77.2022), approval of the rule by the legislative committee on administrative rules went smoothly, the rule became effective March

25th, 2024. A list called, “What’s new for 22” is available upon request, this will explain the changes made to the rules.

As a side note: Mike Nellis said some words of appreciation to those that helped get the addendum together.

Alicia O’Gorman’s report on the apprenticeship program as follows:

- Cost and enrollment both went up.
- 37 completed the 2023 program at \$100.00 per student.
- 49 enrolled to start in June at \$150.00 per student.

Commissioner M. Harrington setting up future meetings. He suggested a budget meeting, and this will take place August 22, 2024, for about 1 hour, virtually, at 1:00pm. A regular board meeting will be held Sept. 19th, 2024.

Commissioner M. Harrington allowed time for Public Comment or any other business that needed to be addressed. There was none.

Motion: To Adjourn at 2:34 pm By: T. Buchanan	Second: Kirsten Ericksen	In favor: All
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