

Sport Trails of the Ascutney Basin

BOD Meeting Minutes 03/22/2020

ZOOM conference meeting (rescheduled from 3/10 due to COVID-19)

Invitees

Board Members: Ben Bardwell, Colin Eggleton, Erik Schutz, Jim Lyall, Stan Spencer, Wendi R. Lorenz, Aaron Day, Stephen Giroux, Matt Kantola

Absent:

Members & Guests:

AGENDA

Meeting Minute Approval

1. Approve Minutes from February 6, 2020- Carried

STAB/ATA Merger Update- Stan presenting

1. Stan was presented with a detailed list of questions regarding the merger from Herb Ogden, ATA life member and attorney. Stan responded in detail and we seem to all agree the proposed merger will proceed as planned by having the existing STAB BOD voted in on April 23 2020 to become the new ATA BOD.
2. Bylaw changes will be required to take place during the meeting, and then we will be operating under the ATA bylaws. In a subsequent meeting the new ATA BOD will vote on new amendments that will cover issues not currently addressed such as spending limits without BOD approval, etc.
3. It is imperative that all the STAB BOD and as many members as possible attend the April 23 meeting to ensure significant voter turnout and positive representation.

Ascutney Outdoors(AO)/STAB/West Windsor relationship update. -Erik

This relationship is an ongoing concern for STAB, as we feel our goals and methods are not always consistent with AO's. It seems AO has drifted away from their whole-property mission to follow perceived priorities with lift serve skiing, tubing, and ski lodge management. Concern has also been raised that AO is a WWindsor organization and more than 80% of our STAB members are not from WWindsor. We want to strictly focus on our regional trails mission, so how do we not get bogged down in WWindsor politics.

Ted Siegler (WW Conservation chair/AO) wants to share expenses AO and existing trail donations. This is not entirely acceptable to STAB. To help with this issue, Jim L. created a history timeline of our STAB/AO relationship to help identify common interests and differences. Discussion as follows:

Matt K will take up insurance duplicity with WW Select board to try to determine if we are over insured, thus eliminating a point of contention.

Colin E noted that the value STAB adds to AO is very significant. We should untangle ourselves from AO, and why is AO responsible for managing land (town forest and parts of the resort) that they have nothing to do with, yet we maintain.

Ben B wants to make clear what AOs mission is. It is not following through with being "the sole entity to manage the entire WW property."

Erik S concluded that we need to reopen negotiations with AO, conservation commission & WW to clarify these issues.

Steve G added concern that this issue has distracted from any hiking (ATA) discussions and clearly needs to be cleaned up before the merger.

Ben B made it clear that AOs desire for "pay to play" summer trail use will never generate the revenue required to subsidize lift serve skiing, and that AO really needs to look elsewhere in order to cover their expenses.

Next Meeting via ZOOM (COVID-19) - April 2nd