

CRAG-VT BOARD MEETING

October 1st, 2019 – Vermont Land Trust

In Attendance: Mischa Tourin, Roderick Russell, Kris Fiore, Andrea Charest, Steve Charest, Emily Harwood, Seth Maciejowski, Travis Peckham, Tim Farr, Andrew Schumer

Absent: Rob Fleming

Guests: Danny Jez; Levi Leab; Eli Santos; John Casari; Dick Katzman; Kel Rossiter; Pete Clark; McKinley Charest; Andy Salo

Start Time: 6:30pm **End Time:** 8:30pm

BOARD BUSINESS AND GREETINGS

- Treasurer's Report
 - Waiting on Festival payouts for final tally.
- Grants
 - Cornerstone grant is not for purchasing property; submitted application anyway
 - REI grant already submitted, should be hearing back within a week
 - GearX Charitable Grant, \$2K, should apply: goes directly toward the Access Fund loan

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Membership

- 244 members (14 new in September)
- Still some trouble with membership renewals switching over to new payment site
- Letter for donations and some membership descriptions still have the discount for Climb High, needs to be removed as that business is closed.

Education and Outreach

- Vermont Climbing Festival:
 - Approx. 210 attendees, another 90 staff, volunteers, and vendors
 - Hand-outs described CRAG-VT mission, courtesy/etiquette reminders, and parking info
 - Raised enough money to pay back 12% of current Access Fund loan for Bolton Dome
 - Meet, Greet, and Approach: the Smuggs sport climbing and Lone Rock locations did not have any attendees; other locations were successful, i.e. Smuggs bouldering had 5 participants, Bone Mountain had 12, Black Barn Bouldering had 50.
 - Clinics: 13 clinics met minimum needed to run; one was cancelled (College Clinic)
 - Mischa created a PDF with data/graphics to share with vendors, will be finalized soon.

Stewardship & Access

- Vermont Climbing Festival: Sunday (Sept. 22nd) was Trail Day
 - 32 participants (16 from Hinesburg Community School)

- Worked on: road at Quarry; braced the staircase at the Dome; added stone steps for Pirates Cove to Neighborhood ledge; cleared out wood debris.
- Bolton Dome
 - Horgan is asking for an early payment for leased parking spots; Kris will talk to him about our current financial situation
- Vermont Land Trust (VLT)
 - Seth met with Bob Heiser from VLT to walk the boundaries, will have a quote for us by November meeting
 - Bob also reviewed the parking at the Dome. Noted that we already have easements on Lower and Upper where there is no parking.
- East Side
 - No updates; Mischa has been trying to track down Pierre.
- Southern and Central Vermont: guest Danny Jez
 - Past CRAG-VT board meetings have discussed perhaps a chapter of CRAG-VT, start funneling fundraising efforts for cliffs down there.
 - Guest Danny Jez traveled from Danby, Vermont (20 miles south of Rutland):
 - a) Challenges of Southern Vermont: very few true climbers and when they do come to town, they stay for a short time. He and Andy McMillan have been among the few to explore routes and develop more in Southern Vermont.
 - b) Many climbing areas: Shangri La in Rutland; Deer Leap in Killington; marble quarries in East Dorset; Ball Mountain Dam (BMD) in Jamaica State Park; and other places around Rutland that are prime for route development.
 - c) Access to BMD: Army Core of Engineers (ACE), gate is open in morning and closes at dusk or 8pm. If the gate is open, drive to dam, 5-10min walk to cliffs. Part of the cliffs are on ACE property, unclear if any is on a national forest land. Other cliffs want to develop are definitely on ACE property. This is where CRAG-VT could help in communicating with ACE for a more formal agreement.
 - One suggestion: meet with as many local climbers in southern Vermont, in the same room at once, have an agenda to start (access concerns, development, connecting with CRAG-VT, etc.); one possible meeting location is Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center; perhaps also involve Nick Goldsmith (developing over in Dartmouth; Heart's Ledge)
 - Seth has offered to meet Danny over Thanksgiving to look at some cliffs (like BMD)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- American Flatbread Benefit Bake, Tuesday October 15th – 5pm to 11:30pm
 - Kel is coordinating this event, will have CRAG-VT table at American Flatbread
 - For every large pizza, \$3 goes to CRAG-VT; last year made \$400
 - Delegations made for: banner; poster (11 x 17-inch) creation/printing/posting; promote on Front Porch Forum; post on Facebook; email to CRAG-VT members; and reminder to all board members to promote
- Reel Rock at Petra Cliffs, Thursday November 7th – 6pm

OTHER BUSINESS

Quarry Driveway for Ice Climbing Season: has not been done in years because people were starting to expect it; review what we paid last time and revisit at next board meeting.

Bylaws are outdated: must be updated and put on the website: for example, add language about the authority of subcommittees. Revisit at next board meeting.

End-of-Year Annual Report: Andrew gave examples of what non-profits share for finances. Revisit at next board meeting.

Kiosks: need to be updated with text of Rules & Norms; Dome kiosk needs update regarding no dogs, and information on parking options.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.