

CRAG-VT BOARD MEETING

November 4th

7pm –Via WebEx

Join meeting link:

<https://hyperedge.webex.com/hyperedge/j.php?MTID=me74b7cd617d0993b75d3c7f239a0cbac>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2342 250 8916

Meeting password: mpVVtWhD242or at Mammut

Or in person at Mammut (6pm optional social hour with a “light” potluck) [458 Hurricane Lane in Williston, VT.](#)

In Attendance: Mischa, Joey, Gene, Deane, Kristen, Seth, Claudine,

Absent: Sean

Guests: Antim, Matt Furtsch, Lauren Eicher, Nol, Andrew Morin

Start Time: 7pm **End Time:**

BOARD BUSINESS AND GREETINGS

- Treasurer Report
 - Lots of fest expenses in October (while income was in Sept) – skewed Oct into the negative
 - \$2713 income (not really comparable to \$26,410 this month last year since Fest sponsors were more last year & we got paid more in October for fest income last year)
 - Partly because of earlier fest date
 - \$42,207.3 in CD (has matured)
 - 67,539 in checking account
 - We are -\$5298 year to date – we usually make back a bit end of the year, phil expects us to be down a couple thousand at the end of the year (which is consistent with the budget we passed at the beginning of the year- expecting a deficit)
 - Fest overview after just about all the income and expenses and we made \$9714 (a few checks are yet to come? Thuja & Lawsons)
- Executive Director Update
 - [Here](#)
 - Worked less than in Sept (fest required a LOT of hours in September)
 - Lots of meetings with FPR site visits including one to Eagle Hollow and finalizing signage for the kiosk at Black Mtn ,
- Membership Report
 - [Here](#)
 - 527 active members
 - Membership income this month was \$1973

- o Steady since July, slight boost in September, but generally trending down from past years
- o How do we encourage folks who have been at the \$50/yr level for a long time to increase their annual membership or donate other times of the year also
 - Swag as an extra bonus?
 - Humans would have to pull data in a somewhat time consuming way
 - Joey + Mischa are working on the brainstorm Matt Furtsch volunteered to spend the time pulling data
- Board Business
 - o Expecting 1 open seat for 2026, 1 application received, deadline is tomorrow
 - o Last call for interest in officer roles for 2026, 1:1 communication with everyone complete (Matt)
 - o Festival Recap: (Mischa, Phil, Deane): [Here](#)

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Stewardship (**Sean**)
 - o Dome - 20 Stone Stairs complete to Cave Route. Upgrades to the Left end as well.
 - Access Fund Grant: covers training and what was missing from athletic brewing grant
 - o Black Mountain - 2 weeks of work up to base and along base to Black Dreams. Haven't seen it yet.
 - o Another Eagle Scout reached out looking for a project. Hoping to connect to do Lower West and Burne Kiosks
 - o Survey - open until November 30
 - 96 respondents so far
- Access (**Matt**)
 - o Should probably have a committee meeting soon...(Matt)
 - o East side no update, project meeting TBD (Matt)
 - o LRP update (Mischa/Jasper)
 - Had the meeting (first in every 3 years) on 11/3
 - The folks there were understanding the fact that we hadn't been keeping up with our "regulations" we originally agreed upon 9 years ago. The property is more open in general and they are psyched on climbers being there now whereas with the first negotiation climbing was new and scary so we made more regulations than we need today.
 - We need to get trail work done and will collaborate with the LRP folks
 - o Burne update
 - General info — 2 properties
 - Parking is public access - the whole trail network is owned by the town
 - The cliff is split in the middle, the far end with the harder climbing is all owned by the HOA - top of the cliff + cliff + base of the cliff up to the river.
 - "Green" access - Town of Shelburne has given an official "yes" to climbing and given an OK to putting in a kiosk

- Mischa met with the town after 3 years of putting the conversation on hold and they gave the green light
 - “Yellow” access - The Gardenside HOA has updated the board that the Town is now officially condoning climbing. Waiting to see meeting notes.
 - Allowed but no formal agreement – our contact in the HOA who supports climbing recommended that we update the HOA that the town has approved climbing for now rather than putting it to the HOA board to vote Yes or No at this point in time.
 - Mischa says there is no need for this to be a secret crag with the current access update – he is inventorying the routes there with Andrew Morin and has already been in contact with the ASCA about replacing bolts
 - Access may need to be green-green with all landowners before we can consider it an access win — but sounds like having a Kiosk on town property with the town’s permission would be a good incremental step
 - Mischa will get back to us with more info on where the HOA is at after he gets their meeting notes
 - There will be an additional meeting
 - Matt Furtsch is a Shelburne resident and wants to be involved
- Community (**Julia**)
 - Committee advertisements
 - Make a video about each committee and put it on the instagram and facebook with a specific contact address for folks to get in contact with specific committees they can get involved with.
 - Community Climb Nov 19th @ Petra Cliffs
- Finance (**Deane**)
 - Applied for additional Access Fund funding for the dome work \$3,600 awarded!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Slabapalooza Nov 8th 2pm-6pm ish – anyone want to come table from 4-6ish? Talk to GD
- CRACK-VT January 10th @ Petra Cliffs Crack Comp Fundraiser for CRAG-VT

OTHER BUSINESS

- Festival Recap: (festival debrief meeting hasn’t happened yet– expect notes to be shared out at the following board meeting)
 - ~250 attendees + some additional volunteers (average attendance)
 - Cost us about \$11,500 – this is about what we can expect to spend each year (assuming no guest speaker cost & same location)
 - Net Revenue was \$9714
 - Large portion of the expenditures was contractors:
 - Guides + DJ were 6,325, DJ is probably 1,000 or less
 - Large portion of income was silent auction \$4,000

- Decline in revenue in ticket sales
 - -33% change from 2024-2025
 - Total revenue was -28% from 2024
 - Conclusion is :by reducing our ticket price we made less money – attendance was about the same
 - Average ticket cost was \$34 whereas in 2023 it was \$45
- Ticket purchase timing caught up at the end but didn't make up for the slow start with the ED changeover until 20 days before the fest when Mischa started really promoting
- Add-on breakdown – we peaked in 2023 (cedar wright?)
 - *guides were paid more this year and were paid a flat rate rather than a per-head rate which is affecting the data*
 - Rescue Clinics went way up 72%
 - Skills Clinics was significantly down -34%
 - Camping was down significantly -28% (though was insignificant income)
- Raffle – could be organized better – Matt F. brings up the fact that at the silent auction things were going for similar to what they cost vs the raffle Matt spent only \$60 and got a TON of stuff.