

**Town of Moretown
Office of the SELECT BOARD**

DRAFT – Notice of unapproved minutes of the 10/3/16 meeting

Board members present: Tom Martin, Michelle Beard, Rae Washburn, Jason Aronowitz, John Hoogenboom at 6:20

Guests present for the Selectboard meeting: Duane Pierson, Rebecca Baruzzi, Anne Greshin, John Stokes, Stefan Pratt, Martin Cameron, Cheryl Brown as board assistant

Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Public Comment period – No one offered public comment

Reports & Communication, Announcements –

Newton Technical Services invoice – for design work associated with the Park & Ride grant application. It was originally anticipated that \$500 would cover the cost for the design work, but because of the detailed work involved the invoice submitted by Newton was \$865. The board agreed to pay the invoice as submitted. A Park & Ride grant was submitted in the amount of \$18,000 to cover design costs to grade, pave, mark and repair drainage in the commuter parking lot.

Cleaning the town office – Bids in process.

Vault humidity – is still too high 65%. Maclay Architects will be asked to come into the next SB meeting for discussion.

Cobb Hill trees – **Charlie O'Brien** asked Martin if the town could remove a rather large tree that is in the town rights of way. After discussion, the board agrees that the town is not responsible for tree maintenance on landowner's property.

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Town insurance – the town will go with VLCT this year again as the town’s insurance provider, but possibly get quotes from other companies later.

Recreation committee business – as pointed out by Duane.

- Duane met with Ed Reed for a quote to repair the dugouts, holes, frost heaves, bleachers overrun with weeds, etc. The price to do the work would be \$1200. The rec committee is asking the town to commit the \$1200, saying years of neglect of maintenance resulted in the cost. The decision was in favor of paying the \$1200 for maintenance, less the \$250 donation received this year from the soccer association.
- What can be salvaged of the fence will be reused.
- The recreation committee via Duane, will help with scheduling the use of the fields and policing the courts. Hours will be posted.
- There was discussion that perhaps \$3600 should be put back into the Recreation Fund at budget time as was the practice before the committee dissolving a few years back. Mowing/maintenance would be paid directly from that fund instead from the general fund.
- The town will plow the access to the tennis courts.
- The school does not pay toward the maintenance of the fields or plowing at this time.
- The recreation committee will work on a budget for 2017.

Mad River Valley Recreation District – re: purchase of Kingsbury land (Mad River Park) – Rebecca Baruzzi, John Stokes and Anne Greshin were in tonight to talk about Moretown being part of the purchase of the recreation fields currently owned by Kingsbury, selling for \$550,000. Depending how many town’s join the district/commit (3 or 4 towns), would determine Moretown’s contribution.

MRVRD wants to know if Moretown is interested. Discussion includes:

- Six fields at the Kingsbury site – soccer and lacrosse
- Town of Waitsfield has been leasing the fields for the last 12 years for an annual fee of \$6,000. The lease runs out Dec 2016, and the land is for sale.

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- In response to the termination of the lease, MRVRD formed a study committee to find land suitable. The committee determined that secure access to playing fields is critical to the future of youth recreation.
- After investigating several options, the MRVRD recommends that the towns of Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston and Moretown join together to contribute up to \$137,000 each for the purchase of the Mad River Park (Kingsbury).
- An appraisal of the Kingsbury land, commissioned by the Vermont Land Trust, should be complete by October 15th. The appraisal will be as an industrial site, not as a recreations site.
- About 20% of the players are from Moretown.
- A grant has been applied for; Harwood Union High School has been approached (but not pursued); and private donations may decrease the overall costs to towns. The decrease in cost has not been determined.
- MRVRD expects towns would contribute around \$6,000 annually for maintenance and upkeep.
- MRVRD will schedule a meeting to work with municipal finances in the next weeks, and Rebecca would love to have a representative from Moretown come.
- MRVRD is having a conversation with Kingsbury's now about the possibility of leasing the field for one more year to allow time for financing etc.
- If Moretown came on board, the town would become part of the District, with two town representatives.

Any ideas would be gladly accepted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Blodgett Settlement – Board members will continue to review the draft agreement prepared by Paul Gillies. Further discussion was tabled until 10/17.

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Town office extension – Clark agreed to add information requested by Ann Kroll of Community Development to the extension request. Once done the extension request will be submitted. Any extension would be until 6/30/17.

Town hall drainage problem – bids are pending to dig the foundation from the elevator to the side door, to install waterproofing. The bid will also include drainage work around the town garage, and to dig holes for planting trees at Harris.

Harris planting – Tom spoke with Dan Harris about the tree planting for screening noise at the sand pile. Dan will supply a drawing showing where they want the trees planted. Adding a small berm may be necessary to carry the slope.

7:00 – Informational meeting for the 10/11/16 Australian ballot vote. Guest listing is archived in the land records. General discussion included:

- The 10/11/16 vote is a revote from the 8/9/16 vote, and is being revoted because of a petition requesting a revote.
- By allowing the Selectboard to appoint a Delinquent Tax Collector (DTC), the 8% penalty would go into the general fund instead of to the DTC.
- A separate vote (probably in March town meeting) would ask voters to allow the Selectboard to change the method of pay the appointed DTC from 8% collected to a salary. The Selectboard is confident this will save the town money. On average the DTC gets \$12,000 yr. of the fees collected.
- The Treasurer would assume the DTC duties. Already working 40 hrs/wk.
- Checks and balances. Every year there is a CPA review or audit.
- Incentive to collect delinquent taxes. Fear of having a long delinquent list again.
- People are still voting for a DTC since people vote for the Treasurer.
- More efficient to combine the duties as the DTC and Treasurer books overlap. Collect current and collect delinquent. Amount of pay?
- How will the Treasurer fit this into her duties? Treasurer will use NEMRC software for record keeping of the delinquent taxes, which interfaces with the other NEMRC programs being used by the Treasurer, now being manually input by the Treasurer.

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- The time Craig currently spends on delinquent tax work varies, depending on the time of the year. November and December, directly after the taxes become delinquent are busy times.
- Not always a Monday – Friday job.
- This vote is simply asking whether the delinquent tax collector is appointed or elected.
- Discussion included the timing of the August vote versus a March vote.
- How the board found out that the DTC could be appointed. VLCT Newsletter.
- Relaying information and warnings.

7:35 Informational meeting ends

Highway Department Applicants -

Shawn Graves was interviewed on 9/19/16, and after discussion it was decided Shawn's work experience made him better suited for the job than other applicants, and he was offered a position on the road crew.

Tom announced that Shawn Graves accepted the offer and was hired. He began work on 9/29/16. His pay is \$17.00 per hour at least until he has his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) which should be in October.

Stefan Pratt is here tonight to talk more about possibly working for the town snowplowing small roads (pickup route) on an on call basis. Because he will be on call 24/7 in the winter months he would need to be available anytime, so he needs to decide whether to quit/change his full-time job or make arrangements to be available when snow fly's. If Stefan decides to do the snowplowing for the town, he will be paid the temporary rate \$15.38 hr. with no benefits. The plan is to see if Stefan is a good fit over the winter and if so, to work with him to get his CDL for operation of the big trucks.

Mowing – Martin said he spoke with Greg Wagner, who is willing to finish mowing the town/rec fields this year, then perhaps Stefan can take that over work as well. Stefan was willing to commit to the mowing next year.

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Other highway business:

Road sand – Martin still has about 500 cy of road sand to haul. Shawn has his CDL permit now and will be able to ride/drive with Rodney to go get the sand.

Cobb Hill retaining wall – Martin still has about 200 tires removed from the old retaining wall to dispose of. The landowner directly involved got rid of the tires that were on her land.

Approval of the 9/19/16 minutes:

Michelle moved; John seconded to approve the minutes of 9/19/16 as written. All were in favor.

Other old business:

Website update – Michelle is going to work with JB as to what is needed to get the website updates done. He may need to work additional hours.

New Business –

Leo Ciampi land – Jason and Norma Maloney have concerns that a parcel of land on Lynch Hill, currently shown in the land records as being owned by Catherine Scribner, may be owned by Leo Ciampi (Norma's Dad). The Maloney's will come into the next meeting to explain. The town will then decide whether or not further documentation is needed to make a determination, or if it is a town issue or a private issue. If private, the town will not become involved.

Signed for approval: Certificate of Completion town office - \$8,000 with Ruggco.
Loan documents from Merchants Bank for the firetruck.

Warrants - # 16052, 16053, 16054, 16055, 16056 were approved. Check numbers were verified as being consecutive with the last warrants.

Motion by TM/JH to adjourn at 8:30 pm.