

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

Meeting Date – September 27th, 2021

Meeting Time – 5:30 pm, Location – Rec Field Pavilion

Members Present: Steve Robbins, John Atkinson, Chris Stephenson, Becky Auger, Sue Werntgen, Meg Schultz

Public Present:

Mandy Couturier joined to discuss field amenities in line with the agenda below

Lee-Anne Martin joined to share her interest in the rec committee, in line below

Meeting called to order at: 5:37PM

1. Public Comment

No new news outside agenda discussions below.

2. Agenda

- Budget Update
- Trail Signs / Gate lock
- Skills Park / Nature Trail Update – washout inquiry by Rae Washburn
- Indoor Meeting Space Update / SB meeting update
- Court maintenance going forward

3. Approve minutes from 7/26/2021

John motioned to approve the minutes, Becky 2nd. No discussion, all in favor.

4. Approve minutes from 8/23/2021

Steve motioned to approve the minutes, Susan 2nd. No discussion, all in favor. Non-quorum meeting.

5. Budget

Steve has formalized an ask for the town to process the Phase 1 Recreational Trails Program Grant Match. John will follow up and close the loop.

Selectboard is looking for a budget draft before our next meeting.

Related Budget Discussions:

Field Maintenance:

Looking to add venue upgrade improvements. Shift from baseball diamond fencing more towards use by the public and private to support events. Morefest being a primary example, weddings, parties, etc. Building on ideas proposed by the library in our March 22nd, 2021 Minutes included below for reference:

Extract from March Minutes - Library Update

Cory Stephenson joined the meeting at 6:15 to share updates from the library. They

applied for an equipment grant that could fund items like tennis racquets, lawn games and nature exploration kits that patrons can check for use, including for use on the rec fields. They will be notified if they have received the grant sometime in early summer.

The library is also looking to continue hosting outside programs and events, especially as covid persists these are getting good participation and positively impacting people's lives. Stargazing events, story walks, and open mic nights were shared as examples. This spurs interest in upgrading the pavilion to include water and electricity, potentially on the field side as well. This could be chartered by the rec committee and funding could be shared, or fundraised to support the work. The group discussed this could also be of value to Morefest.

A general request came up that the rec committee formalize the process by which using assets that the rec committee oversees (pavilion, fields, courts, etc) so that other town entities like the library as well as residents can more easily use the facilities.

The conversation included excitement and support in the wake of Morefest to include power to the pavilion, and adding back the water supply to the fields. Additional feedback solicited from Morefest was to include a badminton net, a dog park, a lower basketball hoop, and a community garden. Ability to run a wedding event. As a first step and included in the 2022 budget is an initial ask of \$400 to remove the backstop, and the last few sections of fencing in front of the pavilion so that it's not excluded from the field.

Portalets:

Mandy joined us on behalf of the school. She shared that the school scaled back from 2 portalets to 1 in the year following covid. And the ongoing need remains to support their outdoor classrooms and recess activities. The cleanliness of that single bathroom was not ideal. The proposal is to work with the school to define an ask in collaboration with the rec committee to consider a more permanent toilet solution. Adding \$400 for researching the above.

Specific to the maintenance budget for portalets. Support to add \$150 to the toilet budget, \$1000 total with the idea to offer the facility for 7-8 months at \$125 per month. The school currently provides the other facility closer to the playground.

Steve motioned to approve the draft budget proposal to present to the Selectboard for \$3,850. No further discussion, all in favor. Steve will follow up with the Selectboard with the draft.

2022 DRAFT Budget Proposal		Moretown Recreation Committee Board Approval: 9/27/2021			
	TOTAL EXPENSE	HUUSD SHARED	TOWN TOTAL	ACTUALS	REMAINING
Rec Fields Portable Toilets	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Court Maintenance	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Trail Maintenance	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
Signage for recreation areas/trails	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Programming	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Field Maintenance - Remove backstop, fencng, etc.	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00
Bathroom Facility Upgrade Phase 1 Research	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Phase 2 Recreational Trails Program Grant Match	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
	\$ 3,850.00	\$ -	\$ 3,850.00	\$ -	\$ 3,850.00

6. Rec Committee Transition

General discussion on Steve's upcoming retirement from the committee. Lee-Anne Martin attended the meeting and shared her interest in joining the rec committee. Lee-Anne and Steve will follow up with the Selectboard to formalize onboarding.

Succession planning was added to the October agenda. For reference here are notes from the most recent April 26th, 2021 related discussions.

Extract from April Minutes - Personnel

Goal to formalize a log of board membership, start dates, position held.

Steve Robbins, joined April, 2017

Chair, acting Treasurer

Sue Werntgen, joined April, 2017

John Atkinson, joined May, 2017

Chris Stephenson, joined June, 2017

Co-Chair, Secretary

Meg Schultz, joined July, 2020

Becky Auger, joined February, 2020

Action item to spread out responsibilities on the board, assign a new Treasurer, and Secretary role.

7. Trail Signs / Gate Lock

Steve has finished putting up two more sign posts in the ground and numerous trail markers along ancient apple way. Excitement exuded from those present. A few trees are needing to be removed from the trail, we are looking for volunteers to help with removal now and ongoing.

Stone has been distributed on the trail. John and Stefan walked the trail and felt good about the work done. Remaining stone will be used for additional drainage in the spring. The reported washout by Rae was addressed in this effort.

8. School Playground improvements

The school has some new playground features and supplies they want to locate near the playground. Further discussion led to interest in a shed with a combo lock so that the gear can be locked away safely without the need to carry out and back every recess day. Susan suggested other nets and supplies could also be stored there including the tennis court winterization supplies so long as there is reasonable moisture and rodent controls in place.

9. Indoor Meeting Space Update / SB meeting update

We will need to pick up a key, and drop off in accordance with our meetings on the 4th Monday of each month. Meg and Leeann were both offering to help support.

10. Court maintenance going forward

Steve is suggesting Woody Dugan store the nets, he offered and he has been integral to setup and takedown in recent years. Likely the nets will come down before the next meeting, weather pending. All agreed it would be a welcome benefit to have Woody support the takedown and over winter storage.

Next Meeting:

Monday, October 25th, 2021 at 5:30pm in the Town Office

Proposed Agenda:

- Budget Updates
- Succession Planning Determination
- Trail Maintenance / Updates
- Shed / Playground Equipment Updates
- Community Feedback / Engagement process

Meeting adjourned at: 6:40pm by Steve