

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

Meeting Date – January 31st, 2022

Meeting Time – 5:45 pm, Location – Town Office

Members Present: Chris Stephenson, Sue Werntgen, Lee-Anne Martin, Meg Schultz (phone), Becky Auger, and John Atkinson

Public Present:

Mike DiMotsis

Meeting called to order at: 5:56 PM

1. Public Comment

Mike was appreciative of the HUUSD Moretown Elementary school sharing space for the pickleball group! And was generally interested to learn more about fun rec committee projects.

2. Agenda

- Budget Updates
- Succession Planning Continued
- Community Feedback / Engagement process
- 2022 Goal Planning (will likely add additional 30 minutes to overall meeting time)
- MRVBC updates
- Trail Maintenance / Updates
- Consider Adding:
 - MRV Bear Initiative - Chris see email 12/11/2021, and 1/28/2022
 - Bee the Change - Sue

3. Approve minutes from 11/22/2021

Motion to approve, Meg made the motion, Lee-Anne seconded. No discussion, all in favor. Approved.

4. Budget

Budget discussed at 1/18/2022 Selectboard meeting, Recreation Budget was not knowingly discussed. As of 1/31/2022 the Selectboard minutes containing details have not been posted. The budget conversation is assumed to continue on 2/7, and we will need to follow up accordingly.

5. Succession Planning Determination

The role of Treasurer was last fully held by Chuck Burt through January 2021, and temporarily held by Steve Robbins the remainder of 2021. This is an open position up for appointment. After discussion Meg offered to support the role.

The role of Secretary and Co-Chair have been held by Chris Stephenson since January 2020, and October 2019 respectively. These positions are in need of distribution as Chris moves into the chair position. After discussion Meg offered to support the Co-Chair role and Lee-Anne offered to support

the Secretary role.

Chris made a motion to appoint Meg as Co-chair and Treasurer, and to appoint Lee-Anne as Secretary. No further discussion. All in favor. Approved.

Updated:

Chris Stephenson, joined June, 2017	Chair
Meg Schultz, joined July, 2020	Co-Chair, Treasurer
Lee-Anne Martin, October 2020	Secretary
Sue Werntgen, joined April, 2017	
John Atkinson, joined May, 2017	
Becky Auger, joined February, 2020	

6. Community Value Survey

Becky and Sue collaborated to provide a draft Survey to kick off the process. Chris worked on an overarching survey goals document and researched community value survey process and theory to help guide revisions of the Survey questions. After general discussion it was agreed that Sue, Becky, Chris, and Meg would meet in the coming weeks to refine a draft for the full rec board to review at the next meeting. Documents are in the gDrive folder described below in the Goals section.

7. Goal Planning Brainstorm

Board Document Sharing:

In preparation for the discussion Chris shared a Google gDrive folder with the board that included a template of active goals/projects, active maintenance, and future goals/projects to be filled out as a group. This document repository has been a suggested goal for years and is now finally in motion. As part of this effort the folder structure further contains partial 2017-2019, and more complete 2020 and 2021 meeting notes, vendor receipts, mission statement & vendor list provided by Steve, and other related documents. The folder is 'Editor' access to the board and is clearly marked as public domain. The ability to add/remove 'Editor' access to the folder is managed by the Chair and Co-Chair at this time. Everyone confirmed they have access to the folders and reviewed them at a high level. Chris will ensure Meg has 'share with other' access permissions for Meg in her new Co-Chair role. And will seek out the town rec budget spreadsheets and add them to the share folder for all to see. This will be a work in progress and should greatly improve the ability for collaboration and document archival. It will also be an invaluable tool for incoming new board members.

Goals:

Running short on time the board started the brainstorm process. The process will continue at the next meeting and a discussion will then follow on prioritization, ownership, and key next steps. While this is an annual goals discussion, the pending Survey project will be a good time to revisit goals once that feedback data has been summarized later this year.

Draft of Progress:

Active Projects: Community Value Recreation Survey, Phase II Trail

Maintenance: Tennis courts, Trails, Fields, Pavilion, Mowing plan

Pending Projects: Town Forest Plan support (pending)

Unprioritized Idea Brainstorm: Update the website to share the recreation offerings, Ice skating Rink, Accessible swimming hole, Bee the Change, MRV Bear Initiative, Public Events, Put back in the rope tow, Host a sledding day, Winter bike trail, Winterfest, community fun, Community Garden, Dog Walking Park, Summer Tennis clinics, Fix up fields so they are eligible for Soccer, Baseball, etc. Ability to reserve our resources: Pavilion, fields, courts, etc., Winter night hike/snowshoe, Firepit

8. MRVBC update

Event is now targeted for 2023 when the MRVBC team has more available resources to support the instruction. Steve Sharpe from MRVBC intends to meet with the Selectboard on February 7th and share the project to address any open concerns.

9. Trail Maintenance Updates

John shared that a \$5,000 grant from VMBA has been awarded to the Mad River Riders and the Moretown Rec Committee to be applied to the phase II Town Forest multi-use trail project. This is exciting seed money to kick-off the project. The full Phase II project funding process will play out again this year with an application for the RTP grant for the remainder of the funding to complete Phase II. The work focuses on additions to the skills park, and hornbeam ridge trail refresh, which has since largely overgrown.

10. Bear Initiative

Chris shared that a newly formed MRV Bear Initiative team reached out to the Moretown Rec Committee to offer and request inclusion in their project. Their ask is for \$500 to kickstart and seed work to build regional community awareness and support. The key focus areas include supporting public education on bears, interactions with bears while recreating or in your yard, issue resolution support, and addressing confusion/frustration on trash related issues, bird feeders, compost, and pets/livestock (chickens). Chris updated the Selectboard on this opportunity during their 1/18/2022 meeting, to ensure they are aware of the program and that the Rec Committee will be discussing further. This will be included in the larger goals discussion as a future opportunity to consider.

11. Bee the Change

Sue shared a program being offered by a VT based non-profit "Bee the Change". They support and install pollinator gardens, with a goal to get one in every town in Vermont. Their projects target up to an acre of land and include preparing the land, and planting with perennial pollinator plants. The first couple years are focused on installation and then the perennial bed is established and should last for many years to come, they also support maintenance in out-years. Overall positive response. John shared that we have a semi-abandoned garden that could refresh with this initiative. John also shared the value of putting a bench there. Sue is seeking more information and will follow up at our next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 28th, at 5:45pm in the Town Office

Proposed Agenda:

- Budget Updates
- Document Sharing Tools Update
- Community Value Recreation Survey
- Pollinator Garden opportunity Update
- Trail Maintenance / Updates
- 2022 Goal Planning Continued

Meeting adjourned at: 7:41 pm