

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting  
May 23rd, 2022 Minutes

Meeting Date – May 23rd, 2022

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

Members Present: Chris Stephenson, Susan Werntgen, Becky Auger, Gregg Mason

**Public Present:** No one from the public was present.

Meeting called to order at: 5:51 PM

### **1. Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

### **2. Agenda Items**

- Budget Updates
- Community Value Recreation Survey - Final Communication Plan
- Pollinator Garden Project
- Trail Maintenance
- Storage Shed, School Collaboration
- Tennis Maintenance
- Gate Key Update
- Website planning
- Permanent Story Walk
- eBikes
- MRV Conservation & Rec Initiative

### **3. Approve minutes from 2/28/2022**

Motion to approve the minutes from 4/25/2022 was made by Susan Werntgen; Becky Auger seconded. No discussion - 4 Approved.

### **4. Budget**

Portolet invoice was submitted, Meg is working directly with Cherlyn.

### **5. Community Value Recreation Survey**

137 responses so far. Final month to encourage participation. Sue will post on FPF, adding some humor and awareness of the timeline. All surveys included before July 1st will be considered for the 2023 planning process. Everyone is encouraged to reach out to friends and neighbors.

### **6. Pollinator Garden**

Bee the Change arrived onsite Monday May 23rd to start the garden installation process. It was decided to disc till the garden plots, behind the town office, and up between the septic and entrance to Pine Needle Path. Sue will coordinate with the school in hopes there are classes available to participate in the planting process the week of June 6th, targeting the 7th. Other planting day options should this delay include reaching out to the Library to see if they'd be interested in running

a program for kids and community, or Neck of the Woods. Or delay until fall when the kids return to school should the site prep timeline push out.

## **7. Trail Maintenance**

On May 4th, Chris hosted nearly a dozen GMVS students and their instructors for a volunteer effort in the town forest. The nature loop was raked with minor root and rock work. The Peace garden was cleaned out from many invasive honeysuckles, and brambles to expose the painted bricks. Apple trees were pruned. More cleanup is needed at the peace garden. The group then headed up Pine Needle Path to South Hill Rd. and shuttled back from there. The trail was greatly improved. Spot specific projects have been identified. A meeting with the MRR including a site walk

A general discussion on the evolution of eBikes and the eventual need to have a point of view on eBike access on the town forest trails. No current issues were shared nor are any urgent decisions needed. The valley Trails Collaborative, StewaredMRV will be working more to define trail access and usage restrictions over time. No decisions made or needed at this time.

## **8. Storage Shed, School Collaboration**

Emily Johnson continues to work with Mandy at the school and others on the storage shed. The plan is to build a unit offsite and then deliver it to the end of the paved road that dead-ends at the tennis court fencing. Some staymat might be added to the area to help with leveling, no asphalt will be removed or distributed nor will the fence post structures. The shed will sit on the ground between the playground and tennis courts against the existing fencing. Timeline: Summer build, Back to School installation.

## **9. Tennis Courts**

The courts are in good shape pending the small flaking areas. The kids' use of the courts for the circus program was a big success, no issues were reported regarding the courts themselves. Generally speaking the kids ongoing use of the courts as a recess and after school destination deserves consideration of our MOU for shared maintenance costs ongoing. This will be considered going forward.

Susan will reach out to VT Tennis courts to determine who is best suited to help with the needed flaking repair and schedule the work.

## **10. Gate / Combo Lock Update**

The combo lock was replaced with a hidden key, shared with those in attendance.

The key to the kiosk itself at the gate area has been found, Susan and Chris have copies to assist with content updates as needed.

The pedestrian gate at the far end of the fencing closer to the school has been damaged. It's unclear who/how/why it got so mangled. The decision was to remove it for safety reasons and get it fixed as part of a future project given there are no short term needs to have it in place. Chris will talk with the Town Road Department to seek their support to remove and store the pedestrian gate.

## **11. Website Planning**

Discussion on building additional rec focused web content in sync with the town updating of their website. Next steps identified to group brainstorm a site map, and then slowly build content to support it. Mad River Riders / Cross Trails Collaborative map kiosk is already outdated and does not show the new nature trail or skills park. Chris has formalized a request to the committees in hopes we can get on the priority list for an updated map/kiosk.

## **12. Permanent Story Walk**

The Moretown Library and Friends of the Library are funding the installation of a permanent story walk and looking to finalize a rough location map to support the trail. The permanent story walk will have pages of a kids book that can be replaced monthly. The school has provided location feedback notably to keep the general public away from the school entrance area and fields behind the school. A site-walk will be setup between the Library stakeholders, and rec committee key stakeholders: Susan, Chris, and Gregg

## **13. MRV Visioning Steering Committee**

Chris Stephenson has been selected to join a regional steering committee to guide future planning on the balance of wildlife conservation and recreational access in the valley. The facilitated process is paid for through the recently awarded \$409,000 VOREC grant focused on the rec hub at the intersection of 17/100. <https://www.mrvrd.org/rec-hub> Roughly 15 members representing various organizations will kick off their work in June. Chris will represent both the Stark Mountain Foundation & Moretown Recreation Committee, please share thoughts and ideas ongoing.

### Key Project Goals

1. Engage the community in a visioning process to ensure future initiatives reflect the Valley's dual interests in diverse, high quality outdoor recreation experiences and a thriving and intact natural environment.
2. Create a gold standard vision that is articulated both in writing and spatially in a map - for balancing environmental health and recreation in the MRV, safeguarding valuable natural resources, and planning for long-term stewardship opportunities.

### **Next Meeting:**

Monday, June 27th, at 5:45pm in the Town Office

### *Proposed Agenda:*

- Budget Updates
- Community Value Recreation Survey
- Pollinator Garden Project
- Trail Maintenance
- Storage Shed, School Collaboration
- Tennis Maintenance
- Website planning
- Permanent Story Walk

Motion to adjourn was made by Chris Stephenson and seconded by Susan Wrentgen.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:22 pm

