

## Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting March 27, 2023 Minutes

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

Members Present: Chris Stephenson, Susan Werntgen, Lee-Anne Martin, Gregg Mason, & Becky Auger

Meeting called to order at: 5:50 PM, approval of 01/23/2023 minutes with no amendments.

Public present: Doug Reed

### **Agenda**

- Budget Updates
- Community Value Recreation Survey
- Website planning
- Town Report
- Town Forest Management plan
- Rec Committee Members, future planning
- 2023 goal planning
- Update Vendor/Partner List
- Old Business

#### **1. Budget Updates**

Discussion reviewing budget items. The Selectboard approved the budget. Susan will now call about having portolet dropped off for May 1. It will be handicap accessible. Payment for the benches for the tennis courts were approved so Neil Mostov can be reimbursed. New maps for the kiosk with skills park and nature trails will be made. Discussion about adding Ancient Apple also was discussed.

#### **2. Community Value Recreation Survey**

No new updates. Gregg is still sorting through the data.

#### **3. Website planning**

Continued discussion of what could be added to the website such as the Storywalk updates, site maps, trails, etc.

#### **4. Town Report** - no discussion

#### **5. Town Forest Management plan**

Chris reported back from the town committee. There is some concern over invasive species and what should be logged, as well as existing eco classrooms in the town forest and how the management plan would affect them. The town forest management committee will further discuss at their next meeting.

#### **6. Rec Committee Members- future planning**

So far no new members have joined. Doug Reed was asked if he would like to join and informed if so he would have to ask the Selectboard for approval. Gregg is going to go through the survey to find others potentially interested in joining.

#### **5. 2023 goal planning**

There was discussion about trail maintenance, especially Horn Beam Ridge. Chris and Gregg will spearhead spring trail clean up. The Mad River Rippers possibly will have a kick off event in May. The idea of raising funds for Morefest with a sporting event that would also help promote the rec fields and courts, and trails was discussed.

#### **6. Update Vendor/Partner List** - no discussion

#### **7. Old Business**

##### **Amphitheater**

Doug Reed joined to discuss the opportunity of an amphitheatre on the back hillside above the tennis courts. The original vision for the project dates back over 15 years and describes a venue / meeting space that could support 600 to up to 4000 people and be built primarily from grass, stone, and trees. Further the vision includes electricity, bathroom access, lighting, a flat pad/surface for performing, potentially under a covered shell or awning. Doug shared that he has received positive feedback in his discussions with some residents and direct abutters. The size and amenities of the forward looking vision

and therefore scope was open for discussion. The ask was for support vetting the idea further and if/how the rec committee would be involved.

Should the project be chartered, Doug suggested that funds could be raised as part of a subcommittee budget under the existing Moretown Rec budget. Doug believes there are pre-existing funds allocated for such a project that have since been incorporated by the HUUSD budget, and he is actively revisiting this history with the school district directly. If such funds were secured, Doug believes they would be applicable to funding an amphitheater type structure but could be used to fund other community accessible structures on the Town Forest lands.

To better understand the exact location and potential scope of Doug's vision, a site walk was suggested once the snow melts off. Weather pending there was an ambition for some to try to meet at 5pm on Monday April 24th before the official rec committee meeting. A continued discussion will be added to the rec committee agenda, that meeting is in the Town Office that night starting at 5:45pm.

7:53 pm meeting was adjourned

Next Meeting: April 24 @5:45pm Moretown Town Office