

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

Meeting Date – September 25th, 2023

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

Members Present: Chris Stephenson, Sue Werntgen, Becky Auger, Saiward Turnbaugh, Neal Mostov, Meg Schultz, Lee-Anne Martin

Public Present:

None

Meeting called to order at: 5:52 PM

1. Public Comment

None

2. Agenda

- Approve Minutes 7/31 (no quorum in August)
- Budget Updates
- 2024 Draft Budget
- Courts / Nets
- Eco Classroom Updates / Wasted* Port-o-lets
- Parking Lot Plantings / Pollinator Gardens
- Succession Planning, Co-chair, Secretary, Treasurer
- Morefest Reflections

3. Approve minutes from 7/31/2023

Susan motioned to change an error in the minutes to say “Neal Mostov” in attendance, as opposed to the typo “John Atkinson” which carried over from an old template.

Motion to approve the minutes, Susan made the motion, Becky seconded. No further discussion, all in favor. Approved.

4. Budget

No budget updates, see Tennis / Nets for upcoming invoices.

5. 2024 Budget Draft

See attached budget proposal capturing discussions with our notes embedded.

Lee Anne motioned to approve the below town draft budget of \$5,200, shared with the school with a net town budget ask of \$4,050. 2nd'd by Chris, all in favor. No further discussion

2024 DRAFT Budget Proposal		Moretown Recreation Committee Board Approved: 9/25/2023			
		TOTAL EXPENSE	HUUSD SHARED	TOWN TOTAL	Notes
Operations	Rec Fields Portable Toilets	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	Accessible friendly toilet, 7 months: Mid-April through Mid-November. Considering aligning with eco classroom use of wasted*. Estimating fee increase to \$200 monthly.
Repairs / Maintenance	Court Maintenance	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00	Repainting lines to allow additional courts allowing co-play of pickleball and tennis and/or 4 pickleball games at once. New nets. This will be used to reimburse fees for nets, paint, cleaner, etc.
Improvements	Playground Renovation / Update	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Pre-planning phase, working with MES to address current needs and priorities, future renovation / update research will continue.
	Fence - Annual maintenance and repairs	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	Maintenance budget ongoing to ensure fence is safe
	Trailhead Kiosk Update - Major Refresh \$1,153	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Grant received for \$1,153, fully funded through MRV Trails Collaborative via Mad River Path and Mad River Riders. 2023 project carrying into 2024
	Trail Maintenance & Signage	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	Focus on ECO classroom boundaries, potential abutter trail connectivity.
	Trails Program - Phase 2 Grant Match	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	Seed funding to match potential grants or donor funded opportunities, largely managed by Mad River Riders. Focus on rerouting trails around eco classrooms. Improving trail hiking and rideability ease.
Education	MRV Bear Initiative - Education, Awareness, Support	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	Continuing Moretown support of education for valley and beyond residents on 'living with bears', online events, demonstrations, partnership with state wildlife law enforcement and biologists, chamber site per Steward MRV, Valley Reporter, and FPF postings - https://www.madrivervalley.com/stewardmrv/living-with-bears/
	Programming (WinterFest concepts)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Keeping visibility here in our budget to support the Eco Classroom event.
		\$ 5,200.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 4,050.00	

FYI, expected court major renovation improvements not needed until 2027 or beyond, minor maintenance until that point.

6. Courts Nets

Neal is to submit an invoice for the paint and supplies including the new pickleball nets to Sasha for reimbursement. Include Chris (now acting as treasurer) to support the process. The hope is the Selectboard will be comfortable re-allocating other budget line item funds from unspent trail work monies towards the new court improvements. The new lines and equipment are proving to be extremely popular and valuable.

7. School / Eco Classrooms

Chris & Becky met with Kate Liptack to introduce the rec committee as she starts her new role as Moretown Elementary School (MES) principal. Mostly introductions and some discussion on playground improvements. The playground behind the school appears to be a larger priority given it needs some updates to be in full compliance ongoing. Also discussed inclusion of the eco classrooms in the Moretown town forest management plan and the pending draft in October for review.

Chris will meet with Kate again to align on various projects with the eco-classroom, playground access, and playground improvements as well as the town forest management draft pending confirmation.

Chris & Neal will represent the rec committee and help support the school 'walk to school' day Wednesday October 4th at 7:15am.

The Eco-Classroom group via LuLu had reached out to Chris on behalf of the rec committee for support to install a portalet for the Pre-K / K outdoor classrooms. The product is being sourced by WASTED* who has a different approach focused on heightened customer service, cleanliness, and reducing pure waste by harnessing urine for use in agricultural markets. "Donation Stations". They are looking to drop off the unit Wednesday October 4th. Chris will pursue answers to clarify exact location of the unit, if the placement has further been discussed/approved by the selectboard or others, if it will be locked, monthly fee, how it will be maintained, and ability to function through the winter. Chris will further support the installation on Wednesday morning, others are invited to join.

The rec committee will pursue a quote from WASTED* in hopes we can leverage their services for the public unit next summer. This will be reflected in the budget ask.

8. Succession Planning

Saiward Turnbough has officially joined the committee, welcome!!

Gregg is backing off of the committee officially but wants to continue helping with the trail work and maintenance on the town forest property. We got a lot done with Gregg's support including revamping the skills park, expanding the nature trail, taming the peace garden, installing the story walk, and installing the pollinator gardens. And especially Gregg's support with the survey, and in particular the awesome reporting! Thank you Gregg for your help and support over the last couple of years.

Lee-Anne would like to stay on the committee but needs to step away from the secretary role momentarily to avoid the typing requirements. Meg is unsure of her future availability. Chris currently holds all roles there was no interest expressed by others. Chris will connect with the VT League of Towns and Cities to clarify structure and by-law requirements for committees of our design, and get guidance clarifying if these roles can appropriately live with a single member and clarify onboarding, attendance, committee size, and role distribution structures.

Updated:

Chris Stephenson, joined June, 2017

Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

Lee-Anne Martin, October 2020

Sue Werntgen, joined April, 2017

Becky Auger, joined February, 2020

Meg Schultz, joined July, 2020

Neal Mostov, joined July 2023

Saiward Turnbough, August 2023

Morefest Reflections:

Push to next meeting, out of time

Next Meeting:

Monday, October 23rd, at 5:45pm in the Town Office

Proposed Agenda:

- Approve Minutes
- Budget Updates
- Eco Classroom Updates
- Portolet End of Season, next steps
- Town Forest Management Plan Update
- Courts
- Trails
- Morefest 2024 Discussion / Winterfest
- Succession Planning

Meeting adjourned at: 7:21 pm