

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

Meeting Date – October 23rd, 2023

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

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

Public Present:

None

Meeting called to order at: 5:46 PM

1. Public Comment

None

2. Agenda

- Approve Minutes 9/25/2023
- Budget Updates
- 2024 Budget Proposal
- Eco Classroom Updates
- Portolet End of Season, next steps
- Town Forest Management Plan Update
- Courts
- Trails
- Morefest 2024 Discussion / Winterfest
- Website
- Other updates

3. Approve minutes from 9/25/2023

<https://www.moretownvt.org/minutes-and-agendas/recreation-committee-minutes-agendas/>

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

4. Budget

Presented budget, recorded and viewable on MRVTV / ORCA - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQJU3NCDXsA>. Support for budget as requested to go to town vote. Tom asked the committee to add an empty line item and look into the use/needs assessment for the fields (baseball/soccer/morefest parking).

Neal to talk to Rae about the current / future state of the drainage project to address concerns with the drainage near the pavilion, accessibility with the grade of the parking lot with the steps into the town office. Once we understand the state of the current project work, we will look into

the need and utilization opportunity for soccer, baseball, basketball, and other activities leverage the 2021 Survey data, and potentially targeting a follow up survey specific to the fields

5. 2024 Budget Draft

Updated proposed budget incorporating Selectboard feedback as described above.

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.
	Fields				SB has asked us to assess status of our fields. And build a position on the potential effort and/or financial investments to increase utilization.
	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

Neil to submit receipts, Chris will support to pay for the nets, paint, tape, brushes, etc.

For reference, Warren doesn't lock nets. We decided that we will start next year without locking the nets to improve public access, we will monitor this risk and adjust accordingly.

Susan to follow up with Woody to ensure we have support to take the nets down and store them in his barn for the winter. The pickleball nets will be removed from the frames, metal will be stored on the court, potentially locked or tied down to avoid temptation.

7. School / Eco Classrooms

Chris to follow up with Wasted on pricing or 2024 and if they have accessible unit availability.

The Eco classroom Unit has been installed and was cleaned on its first 2 week cycle. No issues, it appears to be working well.

Eco fest opportunity to partner for their February event, need to reach to see what is being planned.

8. Portolets

Public unit is being removed on November 1st, the plan is to bring it back on May 1st or earlier if spring rolls in more quickly. Vendor selection is still TBD see above.

9. Town Forest Management Plan

The subcommittee has pushed out the review date pending an updated draft for review. Likely November or pushing to January.

10. Trails

Trails cleared, chainsaw work to remove trees on ancient apple and abutter trails with permission. Key next steps to continue discovery phase work on where to route around classrooms and wet spots on upper trails primarily the beginning 1/8 mile of ancient apple.

11. Morefest

The Morefest Committee shared a draft by-law event policy document to the SB for review in the October 16th SB meeting (see recording link above). It was shared that the rec committee also wanted structure to clarify how town committees are run. The SB suggested we don't need to continue tracking that with the league of towns and cities on our own and that the town office will review and supply us guidance in parallel to the work being done on the Morefest Committee ask.

12. Succession Planning

Welcome Mike Strojny, our newest rec committee member!

Chris to work on updating our town web page with updated committee members

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

Mike Strojny, October 2023

13. Other

The library is hosting a solstice stargazing event presented by Joal Green from the Astronomical society on December 21st at the rec fields. See the Moretown Library website for more details.

It was noted that there wouldn't be a pumpkin walk this year and we could partner with the libraries to support bringing that back in 2024.

The library is working to formalize an ask to expand / relocate the storywalk. The final ~5 pages are not very accessible, especially with all the water this summer. It's extremely muddy and slippery behind the courts. And they are looking to be able to host longer books i.e. adding 5+ additional pages to the layout altogether so they can better partner with Warren and regional libraries to share stories across towns.

Next Meeting:

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

Proposed Agenda:

- Approve Minutes
- Budget Updates
- Portolet End of Season, next steps
- Town Forest Management Plan Update
- Courts / Bocce
- Fields / Drainage
- Storywalk Relocation
- Trails
- By Laws status
- Succession Planning

Meeting adjourned at: 7:21 pm