

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

Meeting Date – March 25th, 2024

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

Members Present: Chris Stephenson, Mike Strojny, Sue Werntgen, Becky Auger, Saiward Turnbaugh, Lee-Anne Martin

Public Present:

Meeting called to order at: 5:58 PM

1. Public Comment

None present

2. Agenda

- Approve Minutes
- Budget Updates
- Portolet Vendor Selection
- Website Content Management / Instagram
- Solar Eclipse
- Dog Poop / Steward MRV
- VOREC / Conservation & Recreation Visioning Committee updates
- Soccer Club field use Inquiry
- Tennis court features
- Bylaws review draft template (continued)

3. Approve minutes:

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 19th meeting, Chris made the motion, Mike seconded. No further discussion, all in favor. Approved.

4. Budget

2024 budget was approved at town meeting and will be confirmed 30 days following.

The planned payment of \$1039 has been completed to Neal Mostov to reimburse funds for painting the additional pickle ball courts as well as the purchase of the roll-away nets that many have enjoyed using since the summer of 2023. This leaves us with ~\$260 in the tennis court maintenance line item for the remainder of the year.

5. Portolets

A motion was made to switch vendor services for the upcoming year to Wasted* to mirror the services being used by the ECO classroom. The quote came in at \$200/month for an accessible unit, similar to last year's costs and within the planned budget. The unit would be located by the PTO storage shed in the back parking area and made available for 6 months from May 1st to November 1st. Chris made the motion, Susan seconded. No further discussion, all in favor.

6. Websites

Mike has been working with Darlene on updates to the website and making good progress. The Recreation Committee now has 3 pages across the town site. The Minutes & Agendas page remains the same. The Recreation Committee department page has been simplified to the composition and structure of the committee and the remainder of that content specific to our amenities has been moved to a new page under the main header "Community Links" titled "Recreation Facilities & Programs". Focus on improving and expanding content on that page is underway. Once the initial content is updated the hope in April/May is to focus on a communication plan via FPF and potentially email sharing this effort with the community.

<https://www.moretownvt.org/community-links/recreation-facilities-and-programs/>

Trail open / closed status will be managed through Trailforks. This is framed into our Rec Facilities web page. Currently the Trailforks content is managed through the Mad River Riders (MRR) communication plan process and results are visible to all through Trailforks.com. MRR closes trails during deer rifle season and delays opening trails in mud season until local trail stewards report that the trails are dry and clear of debris and ready for riding typically in May. Chris Stephenson on behalf of the Moretown Recreation Committee currently fills the trail steward role for the Moretown Town Forest parcel trails for the MRR organization with hopes that the lower elevation and faster melt out in Moretown allows our trails to open earlier, potentially in late April fully weather dependent. FYI: There are nearly 40 trail stewards across the valley working with the MRR to ensure trails are maintained and ready for riders/walkers/runners, etc.

7. Solar Eclipse / Library Support

The library is hosting an event at the Town Forest on the rec fields to celebrate the upcoming solar eclipse. If we are fortunate to get clear skies this event could be very popular and with that a need for volunteers will circulate to help support the library. Be on the lookout and hope for clear skies!

<https://moretownlibrary.com/>

8. Dog Poop

Following up on our discussion in February as the snow is melting out there is significant dog poop on the trails and fields that needs cleaning up. This is especially important to support our outdoor classroom which are returning the week of March 26th. The MES school has reached out for support with better signage and support to prevent the problem ongoing.

Neal offered to follow up with our town Animal Control Officer, Stefan Pratt, to confirm our understanding of the ordinances, gain support for the issue, and consider temporary signs. Chris has initiated discussion with the Steward MRV Dog program and there is some signage available and potentially poop bags and dispensers. A combination of trailhead signage, poop bags, website content, and communication through FPF and the town website are being considered as part of a pending plan.

8. VOREC / MRV Conservation & Recreation Visioning

As the Moretown Recreation Committee representative to the project Chris provided updates on the work of the MRV CRV team as they leverage state grant funding to consider the ongoing balance of best in class recreation and ecological integrity in our watershed. The project team is actively defining a current state view of Ecological Integrity in the valley and will move towards

defining a desired future state. This process mirrors the Visitor Use Management Framework (VUMP), an approach developed by federal land managers across the country. A draft is pending and will be shared with the Recreation Committee to encourage feedback. The majority of content will be surfaced from the Town Forest Management Plan work. For more information on the project check out: <https://www.mrvrd.org/about-crv>

9. Fields

A potential soccer league or pickup league is inquiring about using our fields this spring/summer. Fields are starting to melt out but winter still has its hold.

10. Tennis Court Games

Can we put shuffleboard, 4-square, and similar types of games around the court to make use of the extra paved surface areas not on the courts themselves? Becky and Susan will work to get feedback from MES students and bring a proposal in our April meeting for discussion.

11. Trails

A new landowner reached out interested in learning more about hosting trails on their parcel and connecting to neighboring parcels. Chris will follow up pending an introduction through Mike.

12. Town Forest Management Plan

The plan is posted on the town website. Abutters are being notified. Public comment will be formally discussed in the SB meeting on Monday April 1st, 2024

13. Bylaws

Out of time. Chris will circulate a rough draft for discussion at our next meeting.

A motion was made by Neal, seconded by Saiward to move the meeting time going forward from 5:45 pm to 6pm to better accommodate schedules. No discussion, all in favor.

Next Regular Meeting:

Monday April, 22nd, at 6pm in the Town Office

Proposed Agenda:

- Approve Minutes
- Budget Updates
- Bylaws review draft template (continued)
- Website Content Management / Instagram
- Dog Poop / Steward MRV
- VOREC / Conservation & Recreation Visioning Committee updates
- Soccer Club field use Inquiry
- Portolet Readiness

Ongoing Business

- Fields / Drainage project
- Storywalk Relocation
- Trails / TH sign

Meeting adjourned at: 7:58 pm