

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: September 28, 2026

Meeting Time and Location: 6pm @ Town Office (Pavillion)

Members present: Chris Stephenson, Neal Mostov, Lee-Anne Martin, Saiward Turnbaugh

Public Present: Kathryn Barnes

Meeting Called to order at 6:05pm

Agenda

1. Approve 8/24/26 Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Updates: Morefest recap, approved draft budget, succession planning
4. Maintenance: Fields, Trails, Court, Storywalk
5. Upcoming

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the August 24th minutes by Chris, Seconded by Lee-Anne. No discussion.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Updates: Budget, Morefest, Succession Planning

Budget

The overall budget remains the same as last year, with a \$7,000 annual allocation specifically designated for the resurfacing of the tennis courts.

Operations

The committee revisited August's discussion regarding Wasted (portelets) costs. The current budget reflects approximately seven months of seasonal use (May 1 through November 1), though actual usage may be closer to six months. Neal will follow up with Kate at MES regarding the school's use of the facilities.

Repairs/Maintenance

The committee continued discussion regarding future funding needs for court resurfacing.

On September 21, 2026, the MRC submitted a request to the Selectboard to include recreation assets within the Town's Maintenance Reserve Fund. Proposed eligible assets include:

- Tennis and basketball courts
- Fields and drainage infrastructure
- Fencing
- Roads
- Pathways

Based on a 2025 resurfacing estimate and current court conditions, the committee projects resurfacing costs of approximately \$21,000 in 2029 or 2030.

The committee recommends contributing either:

- \$7,000 annually over three years, or
- \$6,000 annually over four years

to a reserve or similar fund to support this anticipated expense.

Trail maintenance and signage priorities include:

- Weed trimming and vegetation management
- Establishing Eco Classroom boundaries
- Exploring potential trail connections with adjacent properties

Education

The committee supports ongoing educational efforts through the Mad River Valley Bear Initiative, including:

- Online educational programming
- Demonstrations
- Partnerships with state wildlife officials and biologists

- Outreach through Steward MRV, the Valley Reporter, and Front Porch Forum

Improvements

Disc Golf: MRC is piloting a three-basket disc golf course to gauge community interest.

StoryWalk: Seed funding was proposed to support future grant opportunities or donor contributions. Priorities include trail drainage improvements and accessibility enhancements in partnership with the Friends of the Moretown Library.

Trails: Seed funding was also discussed for trail improvement projects, including rerouting trails around Eco Classrooms and improving trail accessibility and rideability. Trail maintenance continues to be largely supported by Mad River Riders.

Playground: Playground improvements remain on hold while Moretown Elementary School works with a potential major donor on upgrades to the playground behind the school. The committee will continue addressing immediate needs while researching future recreation playground opportunities. Budget allocation: \$0.

Summer Camps: The committee expressed continued support for summer camp programs utilizing recreation facilities, including soccer camps, Neck of the Woods, and North Branch Nature Center programming. Budget allocation: \$0.

Morefest Budget Review

The committee discussed:

- Potential increases to 2027 fireworks costs
- Addition of a portelet to the event budget
- Expanding the signage budget category to accommodate necessary event materials

Budget Management

The committee requested a detailed comparison of current recreation expenses versus the previous year's expenses to:

1. Improve future budget development
2. Support management of the current budget
3. Improve communication with vendors and contractors regarding services and payments

The committee also expressed interest in reviewing quarterly budget reports.

Morefest Recap

Event Highlights

- Excellent weather and strong attendance
- Strong volunteer participation throughout all three event days
- Diverse vendor participation and activities
- Recreation facilities were heavily utilized during the event, including courts and the gaga ball pit
- Positive feedback received from attendees

Planning for 2027

The committee identified the following improvements:

- Request that Fire Department spotlights remain on during cleanup
- Improve coordination of traffic cones and Morefest banner pickup
- Consider adding another portelet, potentially near the lower field
- Increase social media and Front Porch Forum promotion
- Continue recruiting volunteers for the planning committee

Succession Planning

Committee Recruitment: Additional committee members are still needed.

Potential project areas for new members include:

- Disc Golf
- Pollinator Gardens
- Morefest Planning
- Trail Maintenance
- Court Liaison
- Playground Improvements
- Social Media
- StoryWalk
- Fields Maintenance
- Volunteer Coordination

4. Maintenance

Harwood volunteers are scheduled to assist with trail work on October 8th, including:

- Trail edge trimming and pruning
- Leaf removal along the StoryWalk and other trails

- Drainage improvements

Mad River Riders may also provide volunteers to assist with trail maintenance efforts.

5. Upcoming Items

Forestry Plan: Discussion anticipated regarding future logging activities and trail rerouting.

Winterization plans include:

- Portelet removal by Wasted
- Removal and storage of nets
- Soccer goals and disc golf baskets may remain in their current locations.

No further action is required at this time.

Next Regular Meeting

Monday, October 26, 2026 at 6pm Town Office

Proposed Agenda:

- Approve 9/28/26 Minutes
- Public Comment
- Updates: ongoing projects, recruitment, other
- Town & Rec District reports
- Strategic planning, grants
- Maintenance needs
- Upcoming: work, events, opportunities, deadlines

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm