10.26.26 MRC Meeting Summary

The Moretown Recreation Committee (MRC) met on October 26, 2026, to discuss recreation projects, Morefest, grants, budgeting, reporting, and strategic priorities. The meeting began at 6:03 p.m. and adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Project planning and land use: MES playground planning is on hold while the elementary school consolidation plan remains unresolved. Members considered hiring a consultant to map recreation land, clarify space requirements, develop project phases, and strengthen grant applications. The Storywalk grant was deferred until next year to allow time to secure additional funding. The committee planned to address the town forest harvest timeline.

Morefest followup: The event received positive feedback, with strong attendance and volunteer participation. Priorities for next year include increased promotion, improved cleanup lighting and item pickup, vendor graphics, and expanding the planning committee to four or five members. MRC will explore private donors, grants, and fundraising to support future fireworks displays.

Grants and budget: MRV Recreation District grant applications due November 1. Chris will present the MRC budget to the Select Board on November 2, including requests for quarterly expense reports and a reserve or separate fund for major expenses such as court resurfacing.

Upcoming priorities: Members proposed a visioning session to create an action plan and identify funding requests. Select Board budget feedback, the annual report, and strategic planning will be discussed at the November meeting.

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: October 26, 2026
Meeting Time and Location: 6pm Town Office
Members present: Chris Stephenson, Neal Mostov, Lee-Anne Martin, Saiward Turnbaugh
Public Present: Louisa Wilson, Kathryn Barnes, Tracie Yindra

Meeting Called to order at 6:03pm

Agenda

1. Approve 9/28/26 Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Updates: Morefest recap, rec areas, grants, other
4. Town & Rec District reports
5. Strategic planning
6. Upcoming

1. **9/28/26 Minutes Approved**

The September 28, 2026 Minutes were approved on a motion by Lee-Anne, seconded by Chris.

2. **Public Comment**

No public comment.

3. **Updates**

Playgrounds: Planning for the MES playground is on hold because the district-wide plan for elementary school consolidation remains unknown.
Discussion: Members proposed working with a consultant to map town recreation land and create visuals showing potential recreation areas, including playground, court, trails, skills park, and fields. The map would clarify how these areas intersect and their space requirements. Starting with an overall vision would help identify phases of work and support grant writing.

Storywalk: Friends of the Library asked the Mad River Valley Recreation District to defer the awarded grant until next year, allowing time to secure other funding needed for the accessibility project.
Discussion: Site walk proposed for MRC members wanting to revisit the storywalk route.

Town Forest Management Plan: The MRC will contact Mike Brown about the ecological harvest timeline. Once the timeline is available, the MRC can discuss cut phases, the S. Hill parking lot debate, community education about the harvest, trail revisioning, impacts on abutters, and other related issues.

Morefest: Planning Committee Chair Lousia Wilson joined the recap. The event received positive community feedback, with excellent weather, strong turnout, and active volunteers during setup, the event, and cleanup. Priorities for next year include increased social media and FPF promotion, keeping spotlights on during cleanup, and better coordination of traffic cone and banner pickup. Vendors valued the on-site information tent and requested graphics to promote next year's event on social media. One or two planning committee members have committed to next year; the goal is four or five members representing the MRC, community, and PTO.
Discussion: A MRC member reported receiving feedback from several community members that the fireworks display was not as good as in previous years. The planning committee had chosen the medium fireworks package because of cost. With costs expected to rise further next year, the MRC discussed both additional financing and a larger fireworks budget request. The MRC decided not to increase the fireworks budget and will explore private donors, grants, and fundraising as additional financing options.

Grants and Donations: Nov 1st is the deadline for MRV Rec District grants.
Discussion: Donations can currently be delivered in person or mailed to the Moretown Town Office, attention Moretown Recreation Committee. Additional ways to accept donations would be helpful.

Budget: Chris will present the MRC budget to the Select Board on November 2. Along with budget approval, the MRC will request quarterly expense reports and either an addendum to the reserve fund or a separate fund to save for larger costs, such as court resurfacing.

4. **Town and MRV Rec District reports**

The annual report is due in January. Further discussion to occur at the next meeting.

5. **Strategic Planning**

A visioning session was proposed for the November meeting to begin developing an action plan for the upcoming year, including identifying asks and grants.

6. **Upcoming**

Chris will present MRC's proposed budget to the Select Board on November 2. No member was identified to contact Mike Brown about the ecological harvest and its start date. Annual reports, strategic planning, and budget feedback to be discussed at the November 23, meeting.

Proposed Agenda for November 23, 2026

1. Approve 10/26/26 Minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Updates
4. Budget update / SB feedback
5. Annual Report
6. MRC Visioning

Meeting adjourned at 726pm

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting Notice

Date: Monday, November 23, 2026

Time: 6pm

Location: Town Office

Proposed Agenda

1. Approve the October 26, 2026, minutes
2. Public Comment
3. Updates
4. Budget update and Select Board feedback
5. Annual Report
6. MRC visioning