
Moretown Select Board Meeting
February 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716 or call in: 929-205-6099

Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom via ZOOM, Callie Streeter via ZOOM, Don Wexler and Robin Campbell

Guests: MRVTV, Curt Lindberg, Trevor Hoskins, Andrea Henderson, Dara Torre, Don Wenner, Stefan Pratt, Lindsay Staples, Sasha Elwell

Public Comment: Stefan was present to ask the SB if the Fire Department could do lunch at Town Meeting again this year, it went really well last year. Sasha will confirm that the Historical Society is going to do coffee and pastries.

6:02 **Japanese Knotweed Management in the MRV** – Curt, Don and Andrea were present to speak with the SB about knotweed in the MRV. Over the years they have been managing fifty different locations in Waitsfield. With the recent flooding this concern is getting greater. They have been focused on the infestations that are up higher, getting rid of that is an easier task than along the rivers. Year over year, the areas that have been worked have diminished in size. As they have a mapping system in place and are able to keep track of the growth. In those areas they have been planting native plants to restore the areas, as well as educating to keep this process going for the future. They are looking for volunteers in Moretown and are willing to be involved and train. The goal is to start small, and learn the way into it. The group was able to secure \$5K of ARPA funds through Waitsfield for the pilot program of taking this knotweed issue on. They have now been awarded \$100K through a grant. There is community outreach through the Green Valley Rally, which is a valley wide event, as well as reaching out at the farmer's markets. John and Don are very interested in this and will reach out to members of the Forest Management Committee as well as the Recreation Committee. With the recent flooding there are growing concerns, root balls have been found in fields, they will need to be collected in the spring and brought to the Warren designated dumping spot for the knotweed.

6:30 **Morefest Committee** – Stefan and Lindsay were present for quick discussion with the SB on the Event Policy and Bylaws for Morefest. As well as be appointed officially, per each of their requests, from Michelle Beard, Lindsay Staples and Stefan Pratt to continue on the Morefest Committee. Tom **made a motion** to appoint each of them to the Morefest Committee. Robin seconded. All were in favor. Tom **made a motion** to accept the changes made to the Event Policy and Bylaws for Morefest as presented. Robin seconded. All were in favor.

6:45 **Reports & Communications:** Cherilyn secured a grant for the parking lot for \$123,236. After quick discussion, all agreed that moving forward was best and the SB would sign off on the grant acceptance letter. Tom **made the motion** to accept the grant. Callie seconded. All were in favor. Tom thanked Cherilyn for her hard work on this.

Quick discussion was had on the temporary Librarian pay rate, it was decided that the assistant Librarian rate of pay would be the what was paid.

There was a reimbursement for the Recreation Committee for repairs done to the tennis courts in 2023. Sasha wanted to be sure that all were aware of this because their budget will show as being over by over a \$1K. Tom will sign off on that invoice to reimburse Neal Mostov.

Linda Hazard sent an email with interest in being appointed to the FRC. Sasha also let the SB know that a couple of committee terms had lapsed and these folks also wanted to be reappointed: David Stapleton to the Planning Commission, John Riley to the Development Review Board, Craig Oshkello to the Development Review Board as an alternate. Tom so **moved** to appoint all. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Cherilyn left budget status reports for the Select Board's review.

Sasha asked about paying the Allegiance bill on the 2018 truck. Tom and Martin are still going over it, the total is a little bit higher than what was agreed on late last fall.

Quick discussion was had on the warranties being purchased for the trucks, due to there being so many issues with the 2018. Tom advised that Martin is doing some research on it.

Don let everyone know that the SOV got back to him regarding the petitions for traffic calming. Tom suggested that the committee discuss it and then come back to the SB.

Don asked if there was any update on the Frank Piazza situation. Tom advised that he hadn't heard back from Ron Shems. The last he knew the receiver was putting together a proposal.

Don reminded everyone that Michelle Redmond with District 6 would be coming to the next meeting. Quick discussion was had on the items that they would like to talk to her about.

Tom mentioned that he wished Dara had been able to stay longer. The topic of the school tax going up to 18 – 20% is concerning and people are worried about it. He encouraged people to reach out to her when she has her coffee visits at the Moretown Store.

SB minutes from 01/16/2024, Tom amended them per the email received from Michelle Beard to take out the PTO member as part of the Morefest Committee, it was only a suggestion in the meeting. Tom **made the motion** to approve the 01/16/2024 SB minutes as amended. Robin seconded. All were in favor.

7:15 **Old Business:** Don mentioned the Forest Management Committee is going to have one more meeting before Town Meeting. There has been questions on the town owning all of the land, and that is being worked on. Tom advised that Cherilyn has done the research on it and it is the Town's land, it was found in the deed. It should be all cleared up now.

Quick discussion was had on amending the minutes from 10/16/2023 regarding Naylor and Breen. Tom thought that it was already amended.

7:22 **New Business:** there was none

7:23 **Warrants** and documents approved and signed:

Annual CAI contract; Morefest Resolution that was agreed on at 01/16/2024 SB meeting

Warrants Payroll 24006 e – checks 4463 – 4472; Payroll 24007 e – checks 4474 – 4475 and
Accounts Payable 24008 checks 24554 - 24578

Adjourn: Tom **made the motion** to adjourn at 7:28 PM. Callie seconded. All were in favor.