

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting  
Draft Minutes

Meeting Date – April 27th, 2020

Meeting Time – 5:30 pm, Location – Google Hangouts

Members Present:

- ✓ Steve Robbins (Chair)
- ✓ Chris Stephenson (Vice Chair, Secretary)
- ✓ Chuck Burt (Treasurer)
- John Atkinson
- ✓ Susan Werntgen
- ✓ Becky Auger

Meeting called to order at 5:32 PM by Steve Robbins

1. Public comment

- None. There were no call-ins for the meeting beyond the committee members identified above.

2. Additions/subtractions to Agenda

- Request to add a discussion on the playground closure related to Covid-19 response

Original Proposed Agenda:

- RTP grant project
- Gate Policy follow up
- Rec District follow up from John
- Field Mowing

3. Approve minutes of meeting on 2/24/2020

- Motion called by Steve, seconded by Becky, all in Favor. Chuck abstained

4. RTP grant

- Pushing discussion to the next meeting given John Atkinson is not present.

5. Gate Policy

- Background discussion shared that the selectboard, select members of the school and the rec committee have access to the code. Tennis court group organizers can get access if needed. The recommendation remains that the gate remains closed and locked through the summer season unless one of the above users has intentionally opened the gate for a specific event. If the gate is found opened and unlocked it's therefore logical to lock it when not in use. In the winter the gate is open and therefore unlocked to allow for plowing. The exact reason for plowing remains unknown. It was generally agreed that keeping the gate open during the winter was acceptable.

## 6. Rec District Discussions

- Pushing discussion to the next meeting given John Atkinson is not present. Next step requesting they join an upcoming meeting and share their goals and focus areas.

## 7. Field Mowing

- General discussion led to agreement that seasonal mowing areas should be pushed to later in the year with a goal of reducing the amount of mowing not supporting a specific use. This should save town resources, reduce emissions, and foster more healthy insect & wildlife habitat. Ground nesting birds may find the site favorable, related state programs to protect the nesting season are designed to prevent mowing between May 15th and August 1st. Late summer/fall mowings benefit the sledding and related sports on the hill above the baseball diamond. And In the spring the school uses some of the fields for recess primarily in May and June. The committee is finalizing a recommendation to be presented to the selectboard:
  - Mow the lower flat fields, and access paths to the town forest trails
  - Mow the septic area as little as required to support that system, ideally only once or twice per season, is the current extent of mowing minimized, if not seek to do so.
  - Mow the slopes above the baseball diamond in August and again in September
  - Consider not mowing between the town office and the Shultz residence unless the abutters are specifically asking for it.
  - Stop mowing above the tennis courts

## 8. ADDED: Discussion on the playground closure related to Covid-19 response

- Facilities manager of the HUUSD school district had the school playgrounds closed off. Intent was good and the secelect board agrees with the condition. Steven is working to build an agreement to keep the playground, tennis courts, and the trails closed. This would then remain the status quo until the selectboard communicates otherwise, likely pending updates and direction from the governor. Discussion: all agreed that sharing of tennis/pickle balls and use of the courts, trails given mud season and following the lead of the mad river riders should remain closed until further notice.
  - Russ via the school is looking to turn back on the summer camp. They want to build some type of structure as the focus of their summer program. All agreed this needed a more formal approval provided to the rec committee. Becky will reach out and notify.
  - Discussion on meeting notes, Chuck will share with Steve / Chris to ensure we are following the correct procedure.

## 9. Meeting Agenda Draft for next month:

- RTP grant
- Rec District Discussion
- Discuss Reopening Rec related to Covid-19
- Finalizer Mowing Recommendation to the Selectboard

- Trail maintenance, marking trails, update.
- Court maintenance general discussion - paint, light stone work

Meeting next month is on Google Hangouts:

The meeting will be conducted via teleconference using Google Meet.

To join from a computer, use this link: <https://meet.google.com/hvs-jbwe-hsk>

To join by phone, dial +1 419-746-5158 and enter this PIN: 859 548 878#

If you join you will be asked to announce your name. Thank you!

Adjourned at 6:27pm

