

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

Meeting Date – June 22nd, 2020

Meeting Time – 5:30 pm, Location: Rec Field Pavilion, Google Hangouts

Members Present:

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

Meeting called to order at 5:38 PM by Steve Robbins

Steve ensured distancing, masks and spacing were being respected and that everyone was comfortable before beginning the meeting. He included hand sanitizer and wipes as part of the onsite meeting.

1. Public comment

- Agreed to be included into the agenda discussion directly. Three Moretown residents were present.
 - Meg Schultz
 - Howland Brown
 - Dave Westerman

2. Additions/subtractions to Agenda

Original Proposed Agenda:

- RTP Grant
- Rec District Discussion
- Court Maintenance
- Trail Sign Update
- Mowing recommendation Update
- Website updates timeline
- ADDED: Moretown Town Forest Group Volunteers

3. Approve minutes of meeting on 6/1/2020

- Steve motions to approve, 2nd'd by John, Chuck. All "I's", none opposed.

4. RTP grant

- John shared an overview of the RTP grant project goals, and status. Focus is on the back field not currently in use where the current nature trail enters the woods, selectboard was in favor, Mad River Riders applied, and a Federal grant administered and awarded by the National Parks and Rec Department. A large goal was a beginner focused trail and skills experience destination neighboring the existing town forest trails. The project is still awaiting archeological review, and a formality letter from zoning. Both are assumed but pending.
- Meg asked about an overview and inquired about getting a formal map of the plan, Dave and Howland also wanted a copy. John shared the three skills trails planned for the field, dirt paths, elevated logs, rocks. And the 1 mile renovation of the nature loop. Maps exist as part of the RFP and will be shared as a follow up item.
- Dave Western owns 35 acres on the other side of the brook. He shared that he's very in favor of the development. He pointed out that twice yearly he uses access through the town forest land to his land largely for chicken management. Often there are fallen trees, and the need for logs to be removed, and those logs come out over that field. John replied that he was aware of the ROW and the need to keep space available. The exact path would likely need to be modified but the uses for the ROW would be accommodated. General feeling that with good communication this could be easily solved for. Suggestion to walk through the land before, during, and as part of project closure to ensure this is successful.
- General question from Meg Schultz on the rec field hours of use, concerns about some of the nightlife and ensuring there's a policy that reasonably accommodates the area. Discussed using some signs to ensure users of the skills park respect the boundary of the public vs. town owned land. The rec committee reinforced their position that the gate should not remain open unless an authorized user is using the facility. Overall agreement to keep open communication to ensure the current policies are being respected and managed.

5. Finalize Mowing Recommendation to the Selectboard

- Meg was open to less mowing as was Howland. Both wanting to ensure a mow path for access noting that it's a wet area. Meg offers to help sketch a suggestion as a follow up item. Also looking to mow the sloped field still for winter use, skiing, sledding, etc. This aligns well with the direction the rec committee proposal is going for the mowing plan.

6. Rec District Discussion

- Introduction from Liza Walker, Chair of rec district for the last 2 years, the committee has been around for 10 years. Their primary function is getting grant funding to pool application awards and redistribute the funds to valley prioritized projects. Including Moretown in that process would have big support. We already see Moretown participation on an event basis, example being the Mad River Park. Beyond the grant focused program the committee is also implementing a strategic plan, playing a larger

role in a variety of ways while respecting that so many well organized and effective groups already exist with less general more specific purposes (Mad River Riders, Mad Path, etc.) A key focus for the committee this year is hiring Rec District Coordinator position, part time, helping with grants, and volunteer coordination.

- Liza asked the group where we would like support, and what we'd prioritize for projects from Moretowns view. Steve shared that we have been very project-oriented in our approach over the last few years and there's not an existing demand list looking for immediate support. We should keep that opportunity open as we move forward. There was a general discussion on helping increase utilization of fields, access to swimming holes, connecting trail corridors including the new Moretown sidewalk to neighboring roads and trails.
- Steve asked what town contribution would look like. Liza shared that it's typically \$15,000 per year, but it has gone up this year to \$30,000 per town to support the new staff position. Waitsfield, Warren, Fayson currently participate.

7. Tennis Court Maintenance

- Paint is on backorder, no receipt yet but Sasha and the distribution company are connected and it sounds like it's only a couple weeks out.

8. Trail Sign Update

- Pushing to next meeting due to time

9. Website Updates

- Pushing to next meeting due to time

10. Moretown Town Forest Group Volunteers

- Steve was asked by the select board to help get a subcommittee built. John and Chris both volunteered. Steve would also make himself available. Steve Sharpe was also hoping to get a ski trail considered.

Agenda for Next Meeting:

- RTP Grant Updates
- Court Maintenance Update
- Trail Sign Update
- Mowing recommendation Update
- Website Updates
- Moretown Town Forest Group Volunteers

Next meeting July 27th at the Rec Field Pavilion (weather permitting) and on Google Hangouts contact info below.

Adjourning at 6:35 per Steve

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!