

Moretown Recreation Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

Meeting Date – May 24th, 2021

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

Members Present: Chris Stephenson, Becky Auger, Steve Robbins, John Atkinson, Susan Werntgen

Public Present: None

Meeting called to order at: 5:35PM

1. Public Comment

None

2. Agenda

- Town Forest Management Plan
- Mowing Plan
- Personnel History Review, New Member Updates, Roles
- Budget
- Kiosk / Trail Signs
- Moretown Nature Trail & Skills Park Update

3. Approve minutes from 4/26/2020

Steve motioned to approve the minutes. No discussion, all in favor.

4. Town Forest Management Plan

John showed a map of the potential for the Town Forest to re-route and expand trail access as previously defined as Phase II of the nature trail. And how it could work with neighboring landowners/abutters. The map is not to be circulated, it was conceptual to feed conversation and not suggest any approvals or assumptions. It shows a goal for stacked loops that allow harder riding on the outer loops, easier on the inner loops. Also enabling shorter and longer rides. The current Town Forest plan has some language limiting additional trail mileage which needs to be considered in any proposed additional phases. There's an opportunity to consider winter/ski routes as well. Likely low angle backcountry, cross-country skiing. We could also add destinations for hikers like spring boxes, and rock walls.

5. Mowing Plan

Becky talked with the custodian who determined that the mowing around the septic is required to prevent deep rooted shrubs and trees. And to keep rodents from denning in/near the septic system. The school side hill has been mowed to keep snakes and rodents farther from the school, and help with drying. Closer to Fox Farm does not need to be mowed as much, but it does closer to the school.

All agreed that the current mowing is acceptable and to watch and learn how it gets used. The town having a mower but not access to a brush hog limits some of the twice a year mowing ambitions. The one remaining item to address is dropping the blade height a couple notches to make the nature trail more visible as a final step after mowing the other areas. John will follow up with Stefan in hopes this is a quick request that can take place during the follow on mowing cycles.

6. Personnel History Review, New Member Updates, Roles

Steve celebrating five years on the formal committee and is looking to move on from his role at the end of this year. Congrats and thank you Steve.

Discuss at our next meeting a more formal ongoing treasurer, Meg showed some interest in the previous meeting.

7. Budget

Steve ordered arrow signs to help guide trail users.

8. Kiosk / Trail Signs

Chris and Steve did hike the nature trail doing some pruning and cleanup, and posting wooden signs along the trail. We identified a spot where we want to purchase a post for the top of the septic access road to help users identify the nature trail vs. pine needle path. We also noticed when coming down the pine needle path to the grass in the upper field, a post is needed to show the nature trail to the right/left. Currently the sign is hung in a crabapple/apple tree. Steve will purchase the two needed posts using our existing budget line for this purpose.

9. Moretown Nature Trail & Skills Park Update

John is rescheduling another work session to spread gravel under the power line and above the last bridge going up below the septic field. We can likely move them with the SmartCart wheelbarrows Chris offered, or potentially bring a small tractor to move it mechanically.

National Trails day is Saturday June 5th, 10am and all are encouraged to join for the grand opening of the Nature trail.

Next Meeting:

Monday, June 28th, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Rec Field Pavilion

Proposed Agenda:

- Town Forest Management Plan
- Nature Trail & Skills Park Update
- Trail Signs, additional two posts update
- Other projects/goals/improvements
- Tennis Programming
- Budget Update / Treasurer Role

NOTE: We are moving the meetings to in person at the Rec Field Pavilion following covid protocols as determined and supported by the Governor and Select Board. Only if rained out we will move the meeting online to the below zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6201042716>

Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716

Passcode D84ysR

Or to call in: 929-205-6099

Meeting adjourned at: 6:46pm by Steve