

**Town of Moretown
Selectboard Meeting
Via conference call
07/06/2020**

Board Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom, Rae Washburn, Callie Streeter, Don Wexler

Guests: Steve Robbins, Neil Nussbaum, Kristen Rodgers, Lisa Mason, Jamie Wimble, Michelle Beard, Sasha Elwell-Badore

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Tom

Public Comment: Neil sent out an email about an hour prior to the SB meeting, regarding the research he has done on pulling out of the school district. Sasha will forward it to the SB in the morning. There was brief discussion on the subject.

6:10 Steve wanted to get the SB approval on the Rec Committee's Mission Statement, talk about the mowing, forestry plan and he said that he would leave the discussion up to John Atkinson to talk about the project that is going on. Sasha will get with him to attend the next meeting. Steve read the Mission Statement to the SB:

The mission of the Moretown Recreation Committee is to support the use, stewardship, enhancement and enjoyment of the town property and resources for recreation, conservation, and education purposes, including the ball fields, court, trails and town forest.

SB unanimously agreed that is was appropriate and should be adopted.

Steve spoke about the frequency of mowing the side hills, back pastures, etc., and less often, 2-4 times vs. 5-6 times in the season (May 15 – August 1). Possibly only mowing a pathway in some areas. The idea would be to let it grow a bit more for more vegetation and habitat, there was brief discussion on ticks. John said that Meg Schultz had emailed him about the possibility of mowing a path. Callie suggested treating the areas for ticks, she uses one at home and it works great throughout the summer. Tom suggested that he and Rae speak with the person that mows and the Schultz's / Howland Brown and Beki Auclair about their thoughts.

There was brief discussion on the sub committee for forestry / land management, between Steve and John. Steve said that there are two Rec Committee members that

are interested and he is willing to be a back up person, since he was involved the last time the plan was done.

6:30 Kristen Rodgers and Lisa Mason joined for updates and Q & A.

Kristen spoke about the school board sub committee report, recommending the timeline for 7th and 8th graders only, moving 2020-2021 school year. She is concerned that the 5th and 6th graders would be moved from Moretown the following school year. John was disappointed that the sub committee is made up of board members, and it really should be non-board members.

Lisa spoke about the last school board meeting and recommended that the SB watch it. There was discussion about raising the BLM flag, there needs to be more talks about it, so that the vulnerable population is not impacted by it.

Some of their concerns going forward are there being no bond coming up and support from the community. Lisa commended the SB for having interest, sending the letter to the school board and she wanted them to know that she appreciates the support.

Reports & Communications: Sasha asked that John take a look at the maple tree by the mailbox at the town office, since he is the tree warden. Cherilyn and Sasha noticed that it looks dead, and it was part of the grant for the town office so it should be taken care of. He said he would do that the next morning.

Sasha brought up the MOU with HUUSD and asked if it would be a good time to have Ray and Mandy join at the next meeting. SB thought that was a good idea, Sasha will reach out to them both.

An email was received from Anne Macmillan with concerns about the lack of face masks worn in the village. She brought up an ordinance that Warren adopted and was voicing that she would like the SB to do the same in Moretown. There was some discussion on it, everyone agreed that it needs to be addressed but there needs to be research done on it. Tom asked that Sasha do some digging and contact Warren as well. It will be discussed more at the next meeting.

Don reminded the SB members that the warrants need to be signed, some members were able to get to it and a few had not yet. Those members planned on getting with Sasha on this to get them all caught up. (the list of warrants will be in the minutes of 7/20/2020).

Brief discussion was had on the sidewalk project. Comments were made that John has been keeping the town very informed of the progress through Front Porch Forum, doing a really good job.

John read an email that he received from Megan Schultz, asking for SB approval to join the Recreation Committee as a member. Don made the motion to appoint Megan Schultz to the Recreation Committee. John seconded. All were in favor.

Tom would like a reminder email sent out to the committees about the sub committee Don is organizing for the futures of the town hall / library, it is high on the SB agenda. It was mentioned to add the Energy Committee to the list of recipients. Tom also mentioned that someone from the Route 2 side of town should be involved with this too.

Tom informed the SB of a couple of graffiti issues on Pony Farm Road. The first time he had Martin grade it, due to some complaints. The second time he made a call to the police and filed a report.

7:30 John made the motion to approve the SB minutes from 06/15/2020 meeting. Callie seconded. All were in favor.

Old Business: Tom brought up the invoice that was received from Dubois for the Dickerson Road construction. He asked that Rae look into it as the quote and the invoice are a bit different. Rae agreed to check into it.

Jamie asked if there were any questions on the re-opening plans for the library, there was none. She also let the SB know what is going on with the wi-fi, there have been many issues with the reception. Cory had intended to check with the SB before Waitsfield Telecom did anything, they were on it quickly and had it done before she had the chance to speak with the SB. They installed an antenna and there is now a hot spot at the town hall.

New Business: Rae brought up getting back together at in person meetings, suggesting the town hall. Discussion was had on there being enough space to spread out and there should be a limited number of people allowed in. Public comment could be handled through the conference calling that has been being used since Covid-19 started. The SB thought it would work with just the board and guests on the agenda, everyone would be able to spread out and masks will be required. The media should be able to attend as well as keeping the speaker on a phone open for public. Michelle said that the library would get Megan in to clean prior and after the SB meeting.

Adjourn: Tom made the motion to adjourn at 7:44 pm. Rae seconded. All were in favor.