



MRVRD Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022: 6:30 pm

In attendance: Liza Walker, Alice Roger, John Stokes, Luke Foley, Shevonne Travers, Peter Oliver, Mary Simmons, and Laura Arnesen.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm: Public comment, review agenda and approve draft meeting minutes from November 16, 2021. *November and December Minutes approved.*

The new MRVRD website is live, MRVRD.org! Please encourage people to take the survey on the homepage, we will announce this publicly when we announce grant awards.

Mad River Park Well Project - timing and funding options discussed:

About \$43,000 needed for well, pump, electric and irrigation.
State Grant is Sept . 10 - matching grant – Up to \$25,000
We do not have an electrical quote for hook-up of pump, etc.
Shevonne has inquired as to whether we could do the well and pump on credit, so to speak.
\$9000 is needed for Well and pump.
\$2400 expected donation from Soccer.
\$2400 expected donation from Lacrosse.
\$1000 donation from a private donor.
We will need \$3200 by March to pay for Manosh installing well only (pump later)
Laura – seems feasible. Maybe send out letters to bigger donors of MRP?
Luke – Fundraising sign? Motivating? On-going fundraising gives people the opportunity to come back again and donate.
Laura – We should make the fundraising bar \$25,000.
Luke – fundraising efforts would be well timed with spring sports.
John – Who signs the contract?
Liza - Liza is most likely to do so.
John – We should get a contract signed ASAP
Shevonne – Happy to put together a proposal for Rotary.
Bear – Do we need a fundraising committee?
Laura – A couple of people to bounce ideas off of would be great. Suggested to draw up an outline of the fundraising campaign and present it to the board.

Board voted unanimously to allocate \$3,200 toward the MRP well project.

Grant deliberations were extensive and a few financial items were unclear and need to be discussed further:

Waitsfield Children's Center and Neck of the Woods: \$5,000 playground equipment ask WCC, \$6,200 ask for fencing NOW. We acknowledged that childcare is a worthy cause, especially in terms of supporting Valley families. Concerns:

- Is childcare "recreation" and does it fall within our mission? We can't serve every organization just because it offers some outdoor activities.
- Public access is restricted due to limits on enrollment and insurance sets strict limits on who can enter childcare facilities/playgrounds.
- Even a token amount would set a precedent
- No funding suggested for either organization.

Couples Club: 3K ask, mowing and maintenance has stayed the same for many years, serves many groups, 3K suggested.

Skatium: 5 - 10K for Feasibility Study, no operational funds were requested, 15K price tag for feasibility study, Lawson's has offered to donate 1K toward it, Lawson's passed on giving Skatium the Sunshine Fund. Concerns:

- Skatium Board does not seem unified behind a feasibility study. Difficult to fund something if they are not going to follow through.
- We will consider more funding next year if they can demonstrate a strong commitment to the proposed project.
- Consider following Lawson's lead and give 1K, we have capacity to work with them on advice and other types of help, 1K suggested.

Warren Skatepark: 5K ask, they used 4K of 5K granted last year. We want to support but want \$\$ to go to materials instead of paying builders In future grant requests they need to include their full budget. 3K suggested, possible additional \$500.

Mad River Path: \$4,950 ask, resubmitted with a number of adjustments, hits all the boxes: residents, helps with economic development, and almost anyone can use the path successfully, broad access, validates they are hitting the mark when they ask for what is possible, 4K suggested.

Ridge Runners: \$6,366 ask, higher ask than in the past. How many valley residents are affected (approx. 170 members). Trails are not open to non-VAST members, a lot of money for a small population of users. They chose to buy the big groomer then came to us for support, we didn't want to be on the hook for a big purchase, feels exclusive compared to other programs we support, we will support seasonal maintenance for groomer and signs (much like we support Couples), 2K suggested

Mad River Park: earlier in the meeting the Board voted to allocate \$3,200 toward the MRP well project.

Lacrosse: \$3,365 ask, did not ask for grant last year, they are helping with MRP well project fundraising, 3K suggested, possible additional \$500.

Harwood Youth Basketball: \$7,781 ask, we want to support because it is just starting up, but they purchased the most expensive equipment available and could have purchased high quality equipment for half. 3K suggested, possible additional \$500.

Little League: didn't spend \$2,200 last year (supply chain problem with double sided scoreboard) and requested carryover. This year there is a \$2,100 request, \$4,300 suggested. Talk with Doug to see if he set aside the \$2,200 from last year?

Mad River Riders: \$6,150 ask for Rippers, most of the discussion centered on whether we wanted to fund staffing for coaches, given that all other youth sports in the Valley have volunteer coaches. In the end, our preference was not to fund, instead, the alternative request around Mill Brook bridge (part of VOREC): \$2,500 stamped drawings, \$1,000 engineering services while bridge is going in, and partial funding of first year easement, 4K suggested. There were questions regarding VOREC: What happens if our Recreation Hub proposal isn't funded? Will Riders continue to pursue building the bridge? Laura reported there had been follow-up from VOREC and it looks promising that we will get funded substantially, but not in full.

Bill Koch: 2K ask for mini groomer (to be used at Waitsfield School) getting kids outside, hugely popular program, 2K suggested.

VT Adaptive: worthy cause but they are super well funded, project is almost complete and it's a statewide facility, \$500 suggested.

Mad Valley Sports (Marathon): 5K ask, that is what we funded last year (sponsorship for the relays thinking the relays draw more locals). 2021 was the first year they were a non-profit. Great exposure for the Valley and good economic benefits, fewer participants due to COVID, some local runners and hundreds of local volunteers. Luke asked if marathon running is a dying sport now that trail running is more popular? In the future ask for a specific use for funds? Kids run already has a sponsor. 2K suggested, possible additional \$500.

Decision was made to follow up with our treasurer to clarify funding available, due to uncertainty of whether MRV Little League funding had been accounted for. Additional allocations were noted for certain grants, conditional on fund availability.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.