



MRVRD Special Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2022: 7:00pm

In attendance: Liza Walker, Alice Roger, John Stokes, Luke Foley, Doug Bergstein, Peter Oliver, Molly Bagnoto, and Laura Arnesen.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Doug Bergstein, Treasurer, explained there was an additional \$6,395 to allocate since that amount was carried over (unspent) from 2021.

A discussion took place on whether or not to keep part of that as a reserve in case there are off-cycle grant requests or if the estimates for the well project at Mad River Park increase. The Board decided to keep \$2,500 in reserve.

A discussion took place about which organizations should be funded at a higher level than what was suggested during the 1/18/22 Board Meeting. The group decided to look at the % of funding proposed from what was asked for and focused on groups where the proposed funding level was under 50% of their ask. In the end the following funding levels were unanimously approved:

- **Couples Club** was awarded \$3,000 for maintenance and operation of Couples' Field.
- **Harwood Youth Basketball** was awarded \$3,900 for equipment for its new co-ed first and second grade program.
- **Mad River Lacrosse** was awarded \$3,000 for a backstop and newly required shoulder pads.
- **Mad River Little League** was awarded \$2,100 for safety and facility improvements with a carryover of \$2,200 for a new scoreboard that was delayed in 2021.
- **Mad River Nordic/Mad River Bill Koch League (BKL) Club** was awarded \$2,000 to support the purchase of a small trail groomer.
- **Mad River Path** was awarded \$4,000 for Spaulding Greenway (new 1.25 mile path), path-side shelters, and vegetation management.
- **Mad River Riders** was awarded \$4,000 for stamped engineering plans and other expenses associated with the Mill Brook Bridge.
- **Mad River Ridge Runners** was awarded \$3,000 toward signage, tire replacement, and annual maintenance of the groomer.
- **Mad Valley Sports (the non-profit hosting the Mad Marathon, Mad Half & Relays)** was awarded \$2,900 for Sponsorship of the Relay.
- **Skatium** was awarded \$1,000 toward a Feasibility Study.
- **Warren Skatepark** was awarded \$3,500 for materials.

- **Vermont Adaptive** was awarded \$500 for its new facility at Mt. Ellen.

Two grant requests were not funded: Neck of the Woods and the Waitsfield Children's Center. The Board acknowledged that childcare is a worthy cause, especially in terms of supporting Valley families, but had these 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

Regretfully, no funding was approved for either organization.

Laura Arnesen, MRVRD Ex. Director gave a staff update:

1 We will have an E-bike lending program in July, courtesy of Local Motion. Two e-bikes will be available to borrow for three days at a time (one day between for re-charging). Laura is looking into a place with liability insurance and no steps, maybe Stark Mt. Bike Works or the Chamber.

2 Laura is looking into getting trained as part of a national stewardship program from Subaru: Leave No Trace. She will see if the elementary schools and Harwood (Beth Cravello & Paul Cramer are the contacts) are interested. Luke said he knows two people who have been trained in that program and will give Laura contact info.

3 Website & 2022 grant announcements will be together in the Valley Reporter and FPF next week. Peter will write the press release with input from Laura.

4 Inquiries from the website will no longer go to the full Board. Laura and one other person will get them.

5 Hannah's House is sponsoring: Walk & Talk (Post for Front Porch Forum)

Tired of winter? Tired of Covid? Feeling a bit knocked down, locked down, anxious or isolated? Or just wishing for some interaction with a greater variety of faces and personalities? Join the crowd; you're definitely not alone! Hannah's House can't fix everything that's challenging us right now, but we CAN offer a safe (and free!) way to shake the doldrums, move your body, meet some new people and experience the inspiring power of Nature in this beautiful place where we live. We hope you'll join THIS crowd (well, maybe a small group)!

WHAT: Walk & Talk (Actually, now, SNOWSHOE and Talk)

WHERE: Various sites in the Valley

WHEN: Thursdays from 10:00-11:30-ish, beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>

MRVRD will post this on our website and the MRP facebook page.

John Stokes gave an update on the MRP well project:

1 No shed is needed and he found a licensed, retired electrician, to do the electrical work for free (MRVRD will pay for materials) so the total project estimate is \$31,000.

2 Using Washington Electric will be cheaper.

3 John will meet Nick Manosh on site at MRP on Monday, January 31 to site the well. The goal is getting high gallons per minute and not being too far from the power.

4 John suggested we look into an EV Charging station (it would require 200 amps instead of 100, but the price isn't much more). Alice commented on the fact that it would enhance the Park and be inline with our stewardMRV efforts and the Board agreed. Laura will research options for an EV charging station.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.