



MRVRD Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 15, 2022

In attendance: Liza Walker, Alice Rodgers , Luke Foley, John Stokes, Doug Bergstein, Mary Simmons, Molly Bagnato, Shevonne Travers, Peter Oliver and Laura Arnesen

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

Minutes from January 18th and 26th approved.

Mad River Park Well Project Update

A discussion took place as to the timing (delayed) of the well project in light of the required permitting from the Vermont Land and Water Conservation Fund. This is a federal grant from the National Park Service that is sponsored by the VT Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation. Some improvements that include new construction or ground disturbance require prior authorization. Liza has contacted FPR and provided Laura's written summary of our plan, so we can be sure we have approval needed before proceeding with drilling the well. John noted that we are trying to do this as soon as possible so we can take advantage of preferable pricing from Manosh.

2022 Town Meeting Planning (15 min) Informational sessions needing coverage:

- Sunday, 2/20, 5:00 pm Warren, in-person only (Doug)
- Tuesday, 2/22, 6:00 pm Fayston Zoom (Molly, Shevonne)
- Tuesday, 2/22, 6:30 pm Warren Zoom (Alice, Doug)
- Monday, 2/28, 6:30 pm Waitsfield Zoom (Laura, Bear)

Laura – Warren put our request into town budget. Other towns separated out the \$10,000 and this will be voted on as a separate article. StewardMRV is also asking for funding. Different priorities need to be clarified.

Laura will provide a one pager of bullet points for presentation on Zoom meeting, then answer questions.

Liza suggested some slides and/or data charts to add more interest to the presentation.

Molly – include numbers from the strategic plan?

Luke – list grant recipients?

Liza – Who we are, intro is important for newcomers.

Alice offered to help prepare the slides.

Recreation Grant Program Debrief - A discussion took place on how to better facilitate the grant program process in the future and to consider anything learned this year:

Molly - Establishing better, clearer criteria will help streamline the process and add clarity for potential grantees.

Laura- grantees can also look at list of previously funded projects to get a sense of how their application will be received.

Luke – Maybe the Select Boards should be consulted as to our funding criteria.

Laura – Selectboards don't necessarily want to decide what we're spending money on.

Molly - Amount awarded does not reflect the amount of impact of that program on the Valley.

Next time – establish a structure for division of excess funds.

Alice – After deliberations have a conversation about defining eligibility, mission, refine eligibility going forward.

Luke – we have done a good job of limiting the high # asks by being specific about a project.

Laura – we need to be specific about funding staffing. Eventually some of these programs are going to need to hire staff. Also, the biggest issue seems to be that we hear from groups during two nights and then decide a month later. That gap may be something to change.

Should we consider shifting the Grant process to be completed by the end of November?

Doug – What problem are we trying to solve by that? Will it make our lives easier?

Conclusion: No decisions made. We will revisit some of these issues at our next meeting, to consider possible change in timing of grant submissions/review and clarification of criteria

STRATEGIC PLAN – A discussion took place regarding 5 AREAS of interest as outlined by Liza.

Peter – Should we have a Fundraising committee? Fundraising Plan?

Luke – Programs – Leave No Trace Program? Supporting training and first aid programs?

Laura – Helping our partners find funding is a real service.

Group discussion about volunteerism, considering if groups need help finding more volunteers or if there are other ways we can support partner organization's retention or success with volunteers, i.e providing first aid training.

Laura - consider a Celebration of Recreation? How about the night before the MAD Marathon? Partner with other events and groups to make it happen.

MRVRD Board of Directors - Board engagement and leadership roles (15 min) - *Tabled due to timing*

MRVRD in 2022- Outlining meeting objectives and organizational goals (20 min) - *Tabled due to timing*

Staff Report from Laura Arnesen, Executive Director (5 min.)

VOREC grant decisions have been delayed again.

Adjourned 8:17 PM

Upcoming Meetings:

March 15, 2022, 6:30 pm next MRVRD Board Meeting