



MAD RIVER VALLEY RECREATION DISTRICT

MRVRD Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:30 pm

1. Public comment, review agenda and approve draft minutes from March 21, 2023 minutes (5 min.)
Minutes accepted without changes.

Misha Golfman - new MRPath Director introduced himself...3rd day on the job...started and worked for Kroka Expeditions

2. Mad River Park (30 min.)

- Irrigation update - installation & training
Irrigation is in and the valve connectors and reels are in place
Training to take place with the whole MRPark committee so everyone knows how it works
Only a few people will actually be working on it but more knowledge is better
70-80 psi for the water when tested
- Establish a 1 - 3 person volunteer irrigation team for the first year in order to learn (Bear to find volunteers)
- Insurance implications - insuring the equipment and volunteers
Our volunteers are covered by our insurance and the equipment is insured as well
- MRP committee structure - Committee Chair & Field Manager responsibilities. Current policy is that the MRVRD representative is also the field manager.
Bear willing to be permanent chair
Can we split the role of chair and field manager? Peter: It makes sense to have someone connected to the field be in this role. Bear: Communication and staying on top of what is happening is actually more important.

MRP Management Duties: since Mike left Laura has been doing most of these, but more should go to the Fields Manager when we find a permanent replacement. Bear is serving as the interim Committee Chair, thanks Bear.

Updates:

Fields are open but groups were asked to stay off during the wet days

Port-o-potty located behind MR Distillery and another (handi-cap accessible) is at the top of the ramp

Do we have a plan for garbage cans? Or do we stay with pack-in, pack-out? Currently staying as a pack-in, pack-out park.

3 new signs ordered to give directions

3. Needs Assessment (20 min.)

- Rec partner surveys: completed interviews, challenges, etc.
Many thanks to our cookie winner (first Board Member to do an interview and submit the report), Peter Oliver, for such thorough work! We are uncovering lots of interesting ways to further support Rec. Peter's strategy for getting interviews: sent email with survey attached, they filled it

out on their own and then he interviewed them...usually one person.

Additional funding and finding volunteers are a common denominator so far. Laura to develop a list this summer on grant possibilities and tips for our partners.

Volunteer Opportunities: do local businesses offer opportunities for their employees to volunteer i.e. Waitsfield Telecom, Lawson's, Sugarbush (PR opportunity for the businesses)

Reach out to the local high schools, Norwich, etc.

Chamber gets volunteers to sit in the office and for the stewardMRV program

Saturday, May 6 - Earth Day - information table at the new Rec Hub staffed by Laura

Moretown: Consider developing a strategy for getting them to participate financially with the MRVRD. Perhaps start at \$5,000 and increase \$5,000 per year for 4 years or something like that. We need to acknowledge that half of Moretown is in the MRV and half is toward Waterbury/Montpelier and they have less business revenue than Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren.

Possibly require Moretown residents to pay more for participating in youth sports that receive funds from MRVRD (this would be a back-up option after first approaching the Moretown SB)

Ask our partners to mention us more in their communications with their participants

- Community survey (individuals online to be delayed until more interviews are done with partners): questions, timing, consider going to youth sports events with the survey, try to cover all demographics, QR code needed, incentives for participation?
 - Should MRVRD have a table at Warren PTO Spring Swap: Saturday, May 13, 9:00 -3:00? Peter and Alice could do this day as an information sharing opportunity

4. Staff Report from Laura Arnesen, Ex. Director (15 min.)

- Stormwater permit renewal for Mad River Park is being handled by Laura
- Dog Park update: all is moving forward smoothly; Rotary putting up the fencing; Charlie making an agility structure; grand opening date TBD; open during the winter?; town of Warren insurance covers everything up in Brooks Field
- VOREC update: they have requested some updates (personnel manual, W9); working on landowner permissions (Misha)
- Conservation Recreation Visioning (CRV) first Public Session - American Flatbread, Thursday June 15 4-6 pm headed by Phil Huffman, Corey Miller and Laura
- Other

5. Other Business

Minutes Submitted by Doug Bergstein, edited by Laura Arnesen