



MAD RIVER VALLEY RECREATION DISTRICT

Draft - MRVRD Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 17, 2022: 6:30 pm

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

Absent: Shevonne Travers

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Minutes for April 19th meeting approved without changes.

MRVRD Board of Directors - Officer discussion, recruitment of new Board Member

Alice has volunteered for Chair, Bear has volunteered for Vice Chair.

Liza proposed to elect officers tonight but use August 15th meeting for assuming office.

Peter volunteers to take minutes ½ time.

Molly volunteered to take on Secretary if Peter will split taking minutes.

Peter nominated Alice as Chair. Seconded and passed.

Alice nominated Bear as Vice Chair. Seconded and passed.

Peter nominated Molly as Secretary as of August 15th. Seconded and passed.

Liza Nominated Doug as Treasurer. Seconded and passed.

Luke is an At-Large member. If he becomes an appointed member of the board (to replace Liza) then his current At-Large position could be someone from another town, allowing us to cast a wider net for the position.

Mad River Park

Irrigation Project Update

- John - \$3175 bid for parts (electrician) waiting to hear about Water Reel bid.
- Laura – need to come up with an exact goal for fundraising, \$30K to complete well and irrigation project.

Fundraising next steps: event and approaching major donors

- Considering 2nd weekend of September.
- Doug – looking to create a family event. Variety of activities – music, food trucks, games.
- Guests might buy raffle tickets
- Volunteers – set-up, parking, clean up etc.
- Laura – matching grants are due September 10th.
- This event would raise max \$5000
- Liza – would be great to collect contact information of attendees

- Alice – creating a connection for people to MRP as opposed to clearly a fundraiser.
- Peter – Food trucks contribute a cut from their take? Also considered having a raffle.
- Luke – getting high school lacrosse and soccer players involved as volunteers. Setting a date will dictate where we go with it.
- Prizes? Could get expensive fast.
- Committee will re-group and check with Soccer and Lacrosse for involvement.

Discussion of a playground at MRP, should the Fields Committee do research?

- Should the Mad River Park Committee move forward in researching the options?
- Alice – Needs Assessment first? Should the Fields Committee do some local research?
- Bear - locations should be considered – Polo field? Couples Club?
- Alice suggested that a Needs Assessment should be the first step.

MRV Recreation Hub Project overview

Alice – what do the Rec District responsibilities include? Financial, communications, website.

Laura – Community Recreation Visioning and Steering Committee for Trail Development – Outcome would be a gold standard for balancing the environment, trails, conservation groups, etc. for the 5 towns. Could a board member attend Visioning meetings in Laura’s stead?

Molly – shouldn’t this conversation include conversations of diversity and equity if we’re talking about the gold standard?

Peter – Responses to Rec Hub meeting – generally positive. Concerns about Rt. 100 and Rt. 17 intersection and the crosswalk.

Alice – would help to have data on what really works regarding safe crossings.
Waitsfield Select Board will discuss 2 crossings that are being proposed.

John – just because VTrans approved it doesn’t mean it’s safe.

Staff Report from Laura Arnesen, Ex. Director

Laura – Looking for Board members who have personal relationships with major donors from 2017 MRP list (Laura wrote a letter and has a spreadsheet to make the outreach easier, Board members would claim people then customize the letter and email it, then make a follow-up phone call). Perhaps there are other areas where the board can help since her plate is full with Rec Hub? Laura is selling \$15 bike helmets at the Waitsfield Farmer’s Market on Sat., May 21 and possibly another day in June. Laura is helping with a BBQ on June 4 for stewardMRV volunteers as part of National Trails Day.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:07 PM

Upcoming Meetings:

Trails Collaborative Meeting - May 25, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

June 21, 2022, 6:30 pm next MRVRD Board Meeting, in-person at General Wait House

