

Mad River Valley Recreation District  
Minutes for monthly meeting, August, 16, 2022

Attending: Laura Arnesen, Derek Bennett, Doug Bergstein, Peter Oliver, Alice Rogers, John Stokes, Shevonne Travers, Liza Walker, Mary Simmons

Absent: Luke Foley

Meeting called to order at 6:49 (first quorum filled in-person meeting since Covid)

Review of July minutes:

Doug moves to approve the minutes

Peter seconds

Approved

Mad River Park irrigation project fundraising update:

- In hand- \$8,600 - \$2,500 Rotary, \$2k Waitifeld Telecom, \$2k Kingsbury, \$1k Alchemist, \$100 personal donation, \$2k Washington Electric
- Pledge updates- Doug has had positive conversations with local PTO's and donations look promising. Moretown PTO is undecided currently.
- Lawson's Grant (Sunshine donation program)- Closes August 31<sup>st</sup>. Application submitted for the irrigation project.
- \$5k grant submitted by Waitsfield Telecom for their professional organization: Foundation for Rural Services

Next steps for irrigation project- John reports that we are ready to have electric brought to site. Ryan from Washington Electric puts the pole in. Then electrician ties the line in to meter and installs emergency off switch. After electric is completed, install pump. Liza asks about site considerations of the pole and of plumbing. Dig Safe needs to be called first as the new lines will cross the existing condo lines twice.

Alice asks if we have enough cash on hand to schedule electric and pump now? There are a few pledges that can be brought home with a call or an email. We have enough cash on hand to do electric so get that scheduled first. John will do this.

\$6,700- Electric

\$8,800- Pump

\$15k approximately

John will also call and get on the schedule with Manosh for the pump. We won't put water in until the spring.

Peter asks if we are making a plaque to recognize the donations and grants? Laura says we will certainly put something in paper but a plaque isn't necessary. Board agrees.

Mad River Park Appreciation Day- opportunity to talk about fundraising success publicly. We are 75% of the way to our fundraising goal. Date has been moved to September 18<sup>th</sup> as the East Warren Community Market is having a similar event on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Reporting out from Doug and Peter on current commitments:

- Charlie Goodman will do something around baseball
- Rob Williams will be there with Yak truck and maybe play music
- Justin Beckwith will create something Nordic related for BKL
- Peter- spoke to Gary K about doing something about Pickle Ball
- Doug- has stuff out to Riders, Path and Ridge Runners
- Troy- is a maybe
- Lawsons- no calls returned to date
- Liza- how about Mad River Distillers? Laura to ask if Lawson's can't come through.
- Doug- food options Michel's Good to Go, Open Heath Pizza, Sweet Spot - just ice cream, Neill Farm

Shevonne asks if we have a policy about alcohol on the fields? Discussion continues. Peter moves that we should have an alcoholic vendor at the Mad River Appreciation Day. The Board voted and it passed.

Discussion around game prices and prizes. Board thinks some sort of prize or medal would be nice. Peter to research and get back to the board with ideas that aren't costly or environmentally unfriendly.

Liza moves to allocate up to \$500 to the Mad River Appreciation Day  
Shevonne seconds.  
All are in favor.

Committee to research Venmo options and the onsite availability of WiFi.

Strategic Plan update- We are 5 years into the Plan. What are the next set of initiatives that we want to take? Moving forward, we need to decide if we need new initiatives or scope and scale the current initiatives? Need to update the chart to capture better accurately what has been done and what is ongoing.

Laura brings up the example of the recent E-bike lending program. If we are going to take on new projects, it is going to require board member involvement. Short of that, Laura doesn't have the capacity. Liza comments that we are already doing new things- VOREC and community initiatives. We have gone above and beyond what we thought we were going to be doing. Bear brings up the Mad River Park improvements. Alice summarizes that we are happy with the current scope of work and it doesn't seem like there is an urge or need to expand further.

Fall schedule- Grant deadline remains November 1<sup>st</sup>. By the November board meeting, everyone must have read the grants. Laura brings up the idea of giving some groups that same amount of money each year. Will discuss for 2023 cycle. Laura to review grant criteria and update to reflect what we learned this past year. During these first 2 weeks of November, we collate questions from board, and we go into November meeting very prepared. Grant applicants are available for questions but not asked to present. They can still receive funds if they aren't able to be at November meeting. Process may be stretched into December if necessary. Alice- make a note to clarify whether we will fund programmatic staff or not.

Updates from Laura:

\$835 from Don Haddox, summer soccer camps, he suggested a per attendee fee which brought us additional revenue.

Woodchuck Golf- Spencer Potter, do an 6-14 golf event. Make a block on website. Great event all around and it is a fundraiser for the Food Bank

Dog Park- \$20k to build the park at the Warren School. It would be located at the back righthand corner. 1.2 acres.

- o Derek moves to have the Rec District act as the Fiscal Agent for the new Dog Park in Warren. Bear seconds. All in favor

SterwardMRV update- they are short \$4k for trash and recycling pick-up and the cleaning of the portalets. Eric Friedman is asking various partners for a donation. This decision will wait for more information and will be discussed at the next meeting.

VOREC meeting- there used to be a free service for trail usage counting. Crucial for tracking the economic impacts of recreation and are needed for VOREC reporting. The two counters are \$2k and the analysis is \$2k.

Liza- Bob K said that the Riders may be able to buy them. Laura, didn't hear this but let's clarify with the Riders. Laura will ask Bob K and if they aren't going to buy them, would they consider getting some of their grant monies prematurely?

Liza makes the motion to authorize the Rec District to spend up to \$2k to purchase two trail counters in the event that another organization cannot purchase them.

Peter seconds

All say aye

Except John abstains

Peter- quick update on the E-bike lending program. It was super popular. Within 3 hours of opening all the reservations in August were taken. Now it has a waiting list.

Laura- thanks Liza for all her hard work these years.

Alice moves to adjourn. All in favor