

MRV Rec Hub-VOREC Team
Meeting Minutes
5-10-22

Attending: Laura Arnesen (MRVRD), Liza Walker (MRVRD), Bob Kogut, (MRR), Corrie Miller (FMR), Ross Saxton (MRPA), Annie Dell'Isola (Town of Waitsfield) Eric Friedman (MRVCC)

Updates:

Bob Kogut reports update on Bridge. A surveyor (from Holt Gilmour Survey Associates LLC) is scheduled to visit the site soon to survey two sites- bridge footprint and the parking area. Survey will give ground elevations for the bridge, to be combined later with information from river scientist and other data added for analysis. Corrie and Ross suggested use of LIDAR data. Bridge engineer, Bob K and John Morris will be there. This will help us to see where flood levels could be in relation to the parking area.

Corrie reached out to Gretchen Alexander, DEC River scientist, to schedule a visit to the site.

Annie Dell'Isola—reporting a discussion had with SB and they have received feedback/concerns from landowners. Annie and Ross will have a phone call.

Discussion of 5/11 Public Forum:

Ross prepared some visuals for the event.

- Google map showing Smokehouse site with riparian buffer and future Rec Hub connecting trail. It is an interactive map that can be posted on MRVRD website for the public to use. Can click on various elements (bridge, path, portalets) and it shows a picture.
- Amy prepared website info we can screenshare to provide visuals

General discussion of presentation info

- Direct connection to over 40 miles of trails that is the most significant chunk of MRR managed trails (larger context of 60 plus miles of trails)
- Could get to LT from this access point
- Framing as a boon for those who already live here as well as visitors.
- Highlight benefit of new path for residents – improved safety and access for kids who are already crossing route 100 near Blue Stone.
- Likely question about Route 17/100 intersection. There will be a vtrans study to consider Route 17/100 intersection. In early stages of that. Waitsfield selected for Vtrans study. Those meetings kick off this summer.
 - Bob Kogut—this study will align with this Rec Hub effort. Our investment in crossing is minimal, so
 - Ross reports working with Vtrans to site Two new crossings- across from new Addison West, and also from Jamieson Insurance.

Sequence of Presentation:

- Liza- open presentation
 - Introduce through “story” of how the Rec Hub will serve community
 - We will describe project elements- discrete project elements with integration and implementation
 - Use chat and hold questions at end
- Follow project elements as shown on website
 - Welcome center-Eric
 - Bridge- Bob
 - Trail Amenities- Both
 - Town Path links- Ross
 - StewardMRV and Community Trail Visioning - Corrie
- Project Management- What does this entail
 - Permit overview – Bob (wetlands, historic preservation, surveying, detailed planning)
 - Town- Annie, Joshua
- Financing – Laura:
 - Project is more like 600k, with the largest portion coming from VOREC. We are getting updated bids. Partner organizations contributing in-kind
 - Reimbursement program
- Collaborative Effort- Laura
 - Regular partner meetings biweekly, with minutes
 - How the public can stay informed (via webpage)
 - Additional public forums as needed
 - Various elements of project will provide opportunities for input (permitting process as well as community visioning for trails, etc)
- Timing and sequence- Laura
 - Two- year project
- Questions from public?

MRV Community Trail Visioning Program Update

- Effort shift management of trail visioning from FMR/Conservation Commission to neutral leadership
- Tried to get role from MRVPD, or VCRD, but not possible this year
- Paul Costello, a well-known facilitator and former ED of Vermont Council for Rural Development (VCRD) has agreed to assist with initial organization of project, with the creation of a steering committee.
- Corrie suggests 5/17 VOREC meeting (12:30-2) to have focused conversation on this draft plan “MRV Steering Committee Charge” and decide how to approach formation of committee, inviting participants
- Paul Costello involvement as initial stage and could continue as consultant. We could consider involving another paid person to help administrate.

StewardMRV- Marketing Campaign Component update:

- Goal: Have new tools to help encourage stewardship ethic and behaviors. Encouraging respect for landowners.
- Friends will lead this project element, try to find a consultant
- Program opportunity- three half day Social Marketing Educational Workshop offered by UVM. Learn how to do social marketing. Ira going and Laura is interested too.

- Corrie says opportunity to work with Yestermorrow for infrastructure at Rec Hub- possibly portalet buildings, green roof, rain gardens.