



MAD RIVER VALLEY

TRAILS COLLABORATIVE

Quarterly Meeting
May 25, 2022
Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Laura Arnesen (MRVRD), Liza Walker (MRVRD), Joshua Schwartz, (MRVPD), Bob Kogut (MRR), Ross Saxton (MRPA), Paul Costello, Corrie Miller (FMR), Eric Friedman (MRVCC), Chris Stephenson (SMF), Jim Edgecomb (Warren CC), Philip Macaskill, Lisa Koitzsch (Fayston CC), Mark Haberle (MRVBC)

1. Agenda revision: shifted stewardMRV update to beginning of meeting
2. stewardMRV update: Eric Friedman
 - a. stewardMRV is an umbrella for all stewardship happening in the Valley and will highlight what organizations are doing in the Valley.
 - b. Tom Spencer as new StewardMRV Coordinator. Will work part-time. Was a site steward volunteer last year, so familiar with the program and aware of improvements that can be made to the program. Identified 16 sites for engagement. He is communicating with various site stewards, using a list he was provided to do outreach. He will be working with MRPA and MRR too, and is attending the upcoming Social Marketing Program
 - c. Formal kick off for StewardMRV on June 4th, National Trails Day.
 - d. StewardMRV Barbecue at 3 pm on June 4th, bringing different organizations together. StewardMRV is providing food, BYOB. RSVP to laura@mrvrd.org. Info on Chamber website too.
 - e. Portalet and trash structures established last year at Lareau and Bridge Street are in place now. Tom is the point person for A & J recycling and Wind River.
 - f. Goal to have fewer meetings and more work behind the scenes
 - g. Interest to ramp up dog etiquette effort
 - h. Use #stewardmrv to highlight and link any organizational stewardship efforts to this program
3. MRV Recreation Hub
 - a. Ross Saxton, MRPA: update on Downtown Trail

- i. Working with Vtrans to get 1/5 mile path section from Addison West store to MRV Real Estate office. Path in Vtrans ROW. Presented at Waitsfield SB meeting, and they requested a site visit. Curious about alternatives to the path alignment as proposed. One landowner (Clayton family) remains concerned, others have joined to support the project. MRPA is working with the family to consider adjustments or accommodations.
 - ii. Next steps:
 - iii. Town needs to submit 1111 permit to Vtrans, when they are ready
 - iv. Topographical survey required by Vtrans, +/- \$3,500
 - v. These will take some time, but additional time will be allowed by the State VOREC grant so we have two full seasons
 - b. MRR re flow of steps related to bridge and parking
 - i. Engineering survey underway for bridge and parking. We will be given data
 - ii. Completed site visit with Shannon Morrison, state wetlands specialist. She found nothing of note regarding wetland areas around parking or bridge sites
 - iii. Two more specialists to visit- Ed Swanburg, Floodplains specialist and Gretchen Alexander, River specialist, will give further advice on siting of area
 - iv. Detailed plan for bridge and parking design. (handle run off, impervious areas, etc.)
 - v. Engineer to conduct “floodflow analysis” to see how infrastructure would be impacted by a flood event. This will help us to find out floodwater impacts from the infrastructure.
 - vi. Permitting- DRB
 - vii. Spring 2023 for on -the- ground work.
 - c. Recreation Hub Visitors Center- Chamber of Commerce
 - i. Working on plan for inside of center
 - ii. Timeframe moving Chamber visitor center after fall foliage season, up and running for winter
 - iii. John Morris doing a lot of work at front of building, clean up will be done by Nov 1, 2022
 - iv. Signage planning with Wood & Wood underway—will cover all of businesses there, for visibility and attractive look from road
 - v. Met with Yestermorrow re landscape architecture ideas for down below and around building, and potential for structures, ie. Gazebo, changing rooms, portalet structure. Received positive reaction from Britton Rodgers and Chrissy Bellmyer. These improvements would occur summer 2023
- 4. Intro to Community Recreation Visioning Project-
 - a. MRVRD- Intro and Background- Laura Arnesen-

- i. History of collaboration discussing recreation, goes back to formation of MRV Trail Collaboration in 2010
 - ii. Led to Mad River Moves effort, and the first big group project related to Trailhead Kiosk
 - iii. Last summer StewardMVR launched as a pilot
 - iv. All these efforts set stage for partners to seek VOREC grant to address stewardship and recreation issues for the current and future community
 - v. Our success with VOREC relates to this collaboration and integration of stewardship into our recreation planning efforts
 - b. Community Visioning Process- Corrie Miller, FMR/FCC and Paul Costello
 - i. Intends to makes sure what we do in future is aligned with our goals. Balance thriving ecosystem and thriving recreational landscape
 - ii. A few levels of engagement in this work are planned
 - 1. Steering Committee with representatives from community
 - 2. Trail working group- looking at best practices for serving needs of visitors and communities
 - 3. Conservation working group- may look into wildlife/trail impacts and best practices
 - iii. Engagement includes two Community Forums, and three Trail Collaborative Meeting conversations
 - iv. Phase 1- Forming Steering Committee and creating “charge” document and plan for engagement
 - v. Phase 2-Steering committee and Working Groups- learning and sharing
 - vi. Phase 3- Mapping a vision for trail network/future opportunities
 - vii. Paul Costello hired as facilitator to help framework and set work in motion from VOREC grant deliverables
 - 1. Importance of shared ownership of this process and product
 - 2. This kind of thinking is happening around the State
 - 3. MRVRD is the fiscal agent. Steering Committee to make sure there are connections to the community, and helping to process and digest community priorities, and share back to the community. Paul has been reaching out to identified representatives from local groups to be on the Steering Committee and it is going well.
5. Dogs on Trails- Ross Saxton
 - a. Survey completed -with 158 responses. Will inform next steps with what can be done to improve issues (dog waste, unleashed dogs) that lead to conflicts. 100% solution probably not possible, this issue is being tackled across the US
 - b. Sponsor for bins to collect dog waste bags at key sites
 - c. Possible fenced in dog park in the Valley. New committee may be established to consider this option.
 - d. Question on survey- should their be “dog free zones”
 - e. Other ideas-
 - i. Dog poop bags of a brighter color
 - ii. Distribution of info when dog licenses issued and at local Vets

- f. Plan to talk about this issue at future MRV Trail Collaborative meetings.
 - g. Consider this as an initiative informed by Social Marketing program and VOREC-funded project to have a few focused stewardship campaigns
 - h. StewardMRV has provided etiquette guidance on MRV Chamber website/StewardMRV related to dogs that could be basis for future materials.
6. Trailhead Kiosks-
- a. Background and context -Joshua Schwartz
 - i. Trailhead Kiosk project was part of “MRV Moves” Study Implementation Plan- along with production of paper map, digital map. Digital trail data was critical component of project
 - ii. 5th Edition of MRV Trail Map just came out!
 - iii. 45 Trailhead kiosks installed, in locations identified by partners and stakeholders. Two left to put up by MRR
 - iv. Two kinds- both printed on panels
 - 1. Major Kiosks- two posts, in places with parking and higher demand
 - 2. Minor Kiosks- one post, 2 x 3’ panel, in places no parking, less info needed
 - v. Volunteers helped fabricate
 - vi. One remaining Major kiosk- ear marked for Boyce Hill
 - vii. 12-15 posts for minor kiosks stored behind Wait House. (two of these are for MRR)
 - viii. Funding from municipal and also from two state grants- Dept of housing and one a rec grant.
 - ix. MRVPD project managed, with broad support, for this initiative
 - x. Post completion, the kiosks are the responsibility of the Trail Stewards
 - xi. We know updates and new kiosks will be needed
 - xii. cost of signs—printing of panel is \$200-300, depends on how many printed at one time. Most of the cost is design work (and iterations), getting map and content correct, editing, property owner contact, etc.
 - xiii. No budget or plan for kiosks going forward (except for \$10,000 in the VOREC grant to cover 4 kiosks: MRV REC Hub (major), Seriously Sharp N Seriously Sharp S, Downtown Trail (3 minor)
 - xiv. We have a template from our work with Wood & Wood. System in place but need project manager to oversee creation
 - xv. Two contractors- used
 - 1. Wood and Wood did panel printing
 - 2. Brian Voigt was map maker, worked with trail stewards to make a map with particular data.
 - 3. Joshua has asked him for final data layer, MRV Trail Collaborative could make sure that stays updated
 - 4. We aren’t sure if Brian would be the map maker again
 - b. Plan for next Kiosks

- i. Timing- Flemer field needed most soon- MRPA has \$900. Could move forward first. MRPA may be able to GIS work
- ii. Revisit this conversation at next MRV TC meeting to consider project management options and hear what MRPA experience was with Wood and Wood, and data availability from Brian Voigt.

7. Date for Next quarterly meeting will be planned via Doodle

8. Meeting adjourned- 5:30 pm