

VOREC Kick-Off Meeting

3/29/22, 12:30 p.m., Zoom

Present:

Laura Arnesen & Liza Walker (MRVRD)

Eric Friedman (MRV Chamber of Commerce)

Joshua Schwartz & Amy Tomasso (MRVPD)

Ross Saxton (Mad River Path)

Corrie Miller (Friends of the Mad River)

Bob Kogut (Mad River Riders)

Annie Decker-Dell'Isola (Town of Waitsfield)

Chris Stephenson (MRV Backcountry Coalition)

1. Welcome & Congratulations!

- a. Meeting opened at 12:34 p.m.
- b. Project partners congratulated each other on MRVRD's successful application.
- c. MRVPD staff gave an update on Governor Scott's press conference on 3/28 at the Old Train Depot in Danville (soon to be a new recreation hub).
 - i. The event was very uplifting, with grant recipients sharing what VOREC means for their communities. About 50 people attended.

2. Partner Updates

a. Mad River Riders

- Project review sheets have been submitted
- Emails have been sent out to each state-level permitting entity with relevant partners copied
- Have been in contact with the engineer from Richmond – drawing up a package for several permits
- Flood analysis TBD
- Bridge construction work must be requoted since the grant application; all the 30-day quotes have expired (screw piles, structure, etc.)
 - First steps in bridge building: test supports for bridge
- MRR will reach out to JB Weir, ZA for local town permits per the suggestion of Waitsfield Town Administrator
- What happens if bridge quote comes in way over?
 - MRR would fundraise for the gaps
- Eric will be meeting with other members of MRR to talk about how to fundraise
 - Concern raised about three major partners all fundraising at the same time – will have a separate fundraising meeting (see “Fundraising” below)

b. Mad River Path

- MRP still needs to fundraise more for its path segments associated (final amount depends on grants)

- A new cross walk has been added to the design plans behind MRV Real Estate
- Ross has been working with VTrans over the past few months - meeting on 3/31 to finalize plans before bringing to Waitsfield Selectboard for review
- Approvals needed: Selectboard & DRB approval for path segments. Crosswalks will require a request from the town as well. 1111 permits will have town involvement.
- Remaining permissions needed: private residence south of new Addison West store
- Other landowners (including Bluestone & MRVRE) are supportive

c. Chamber of Commerce

- Major consideration is timing the Chamber's move to LocalFolk
 - Will coordinate with construction of bridge
- Property needs to be cleaned up
- Municipal permitting pretty minimal
- Short-term: focusing on signage, lighting, layout - scheduled for June
 - What will it look like?
- Welcome Center as home for FMR, MRP, MRR...how will each organization show up and feel welcome? How will the center encourage volunteerism? Multimedia & engaging. 24/7 information.

d. Friends of the Mad River

- FMR is exploring options related to neutral convener role for Community Rec Visioning project leadership
- Interest in the parking lot sub-committee vis-a-vis stormwater on property
- Noted opportunity for the StewardMRV marketing campaign project to complement the Welcome Center display/messaging.

3. Planning Areas

a. Parking lot

- MRVDPD helped John Morris put together initial design
- Next steps:
 - MRVDPD will help, makes sense from local zoning permit perspective
- Best to present project as cohesive master plan in terms of zoning
- Parking lot design—need to come to agreement about what we want/makes sense
 - Will need some more site work - needs to meet setbacks & stormwater objectives
 - Will convene a parking lot subcommittee with Corrie covering stormwater and Eric offering support

b. Permitting

- Question posed to Annie: What makes sense to the town in terms of permitting?

- Annie: Best next step is to set up a meeting with her, JB Weir, and whoever will present the project at local level to DRB. Talk through zoning and full scope.
- Most of the permits are on one project review sheet except Path segments
- Questions about the 1111 permits on John Morris's property
 - VTrans permits & VTrans redesign of Route 17/100 will determine ultimate outcome
 - Want to be sensitive to landowners

c. Fundraising

- MRP: Needs to fundraise around 70,000 if they don't get grants
- FMR: Needs to fundraise around 30,000 minimum
- Next steps: convene a fundraising meeting. Discuss the possibility of a Valley-wide fundraising effort so the partners are not competing.

4. Other Logistics

- a. Jackie Dagger says we won't know anything else about the technical side of grant for a few weeks.
- b. MRVRD is partnering with Local Motion on an E-bike lending program which is now 7/28/22-9/1/22. The Chamber of Commerce will be the drop-off, pick-up point even if the Chamber has not yet moved to the Recreation Hub.

5. Next meeting

- a. 4/12/22 @ 12:30 p.m. Laura will make a calendar invite.