

**Minutes of October 24, 2023 Meeting
Warren Select Board
Streamed on MRVTV
6:30 PM**

Members Present: Luke Youmell, Chair; Andrew Cunningham, Vice Chair; Bob Ackland, Camilla Behn, Devin Klein Corrigan

Staff Present: Rebecca Campbell, Town Administrator; Dayna Lisaius, Town Treasurer; Marie Schmukal, Library Director

Others Present: Doug Bergstein (Recreation Committee), Perry Bigelow, Alice Cheney, Misha Golfman (Recreation Committee), Pierre Hall (Recreation Committee), Bob Meany (Recreation Committee), Kirstin Reilly (Recreation Committee), Mac Rood (MRPA), Bill Zekas, Susan Stoehr (MRV Senior Citizens), Linda Tyler, Dorothy Tod, Anthony Italiano (Mad River TV), Mac Rood

Public Comment

Bill Zekas indicated that the MRV Senior Citizens will likely be asking for an increase in the amount provided to them through Town budgets this year. He provided a letter summarizing the request and was advised that this topic will be placed on the November 14 meeting agenda.

Agenda Changes

Ms. Lisaius requested that some administrative items be addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

Administrative Items

MOTION: *Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the MOA with Brook Field Service for performing an energy assessment of town buildings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ackland. All voted in favor.*

It was confirmed that Jeff Campbell tests the town generator once a week, but that the schedule should be adjusted so that the automatic turning on of the system occurs at 6 pm on Thursdays. It will need to be confirmed with Sam Krotinger that the school's system is also scheduled to come on weekly.

It was agreed that the current service contract should stipulate a once-per-year service visit.

Other invoice questions were addressed. Mr. Ackland will contact Stone Environmental in order to clarify the purpose of the groundwater sampling that was invoiced.

Recreation Committee Update

Several members of the Warren Recreation Committee presented the vision statement they had created for Brooks Recreation Field, and an overview of various potential improvements to the recreation facilities at that site. The vision statement indicates a preference for keeping the wooded areas surrounding the site as a natural reserve, with no further trail development proposed. However, the group noted that an increasing number of people are using the site's facilities, and that there are areas where they see potential for improvement and future development. Some of those details were outlined, along with ideas which had been contributed by the PTO during related discussions.

One of the projects described includes the removal of the shed near the skate park, which is in disrepair, as well as the removal of several pine trees and the amphitheater (also in disrepair) between the skate park and the tennis/pickleball courts. This would be followed by the creation of a shade structure of some type, placement of a portable toilet in that area, and the provision of several more parking spaces.

There was some discussion of the history of the amphitheater, as well as the need to clarify what is within the Town's purview and what is to be overseen by the school district, with an MOU to be finalized outlining the distinctions. The Rec Committee was advised to put together a detailed written outline of their plans, along with cost estimates, for review at the Board's November 28 budget discussion. The group was also advised to seek school administrative and staff input in addition to PTO proposals, as

well as to outline in general how communication among the many entities with interests in the facilities will be structured.

The Board reported to the Committee that a post had been removed from the backstop fence closer to the school, as it was rotting and posed a danger of falling. The Committee was asked to consider addressing the need for that backstop going forward.

Mad River Path, VT-100 Path Scoping Study

Misha Golfman provided an update on the many meetings and site visits which have taken place regarding planning for the VT-100 Multi-Use Path he envisions, noting the support expressed by various programs within VTrans as well as cooperation planned with other trail networks. He explained that the next step is to apply for a VTrans grant to complete a scoping study, which will likely be between \$60K and \$70K, with a 20% match requirement. Mr. Golfman is asking each of the three towns through which the path will travel to provide a \$4K contribution to that match, as well as a letter of support.

In response to questions, Mr. Golfman explained that this path will allow for a healthier lifestyle, carbon reduction, and sustainable tourism, although the primary benefit will be increased pedestrian and bicycle safety along the route. He acknowledged that Fayston will also benefit from the project, but that any construction fund assistance will need to be applied for by the towns in which the path is actually located, and so at this point only Warren, Waitsfield, and Moretown are being asked to contribute to the match requirement.

Mr. Golfman also explained that the path will be bidirectional, with customary protocols in place for which type of travel takes priority when users encounter each other; he indicated that there is awareness that this will need to be managed appropriately.

MOTION: *Mr. Ackland made a motion to provide a letter from the Town of Warren in support of the project, and to include \$4K in the FY25 budget for the scoping study match. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cunningham. All voted in favor.*

Pavilion RFP Review

Four responses had been received for the project, and some of the details of each were reviewed at the meeting. Plans and cost estimates were submitted by Alice Cheney, Corrigan & Klein, Dave Sellers/Madsonian, and Yestermorrow. The structure size, design, and materials, as well as the proposed cost, for each plan were reviewed; Ms. Lisaius reminded the Board that the grant specifications require benches, railings, and accessibility. Because Mr. Ackland had not received the plans in advance of the meeting, and other Board members felt they may have further questions to be addressed, it was decided to delay making a decision and awarding the project until the next meeting.

Opioid Settlement Discussion

Ms. Behn had researched what types of uses are allowed under the two settlement agreements that are providing funds to Vermont towns, and it was agreed that a suitable use of these funds would be to provide Narcan and associated training for MRVAS; it was also pointed out that the Library and the Fire Department are two potential groups that would benefit from maintaining a supply of Narcan and participating in the necessary training. The exact amount received through the first settlement checks needs to be clarified, and it was noted that this money will continue to come to the Town in upcoming payments. Current receipts are approximately \$1000. It was agreed to gather more information for the next Board meeting.

Flat Iron Stormwater Remediation

Due to some miscommunication regarding the next steps to be taken, and because Board members had not had time to digest the proposal from Stone Environmental, it was agreed to table this item until an upcoming meeting. Ms. Behn noted that Lisa Cole, who is helping to manage the grant, is waiting to hear whether the Town wants to go to the next phase of this project.

Town Hall Rental Policy

Ms. Lisaius provided draft policy documents for Board review; several of the details were discussed. It was agreed that the sites to be covered under the policy include the covered bridge, the town green, and the municipal building. It was proposed that the Recreation Committee take on responsibility for determining rental details related to Brooks Field, where more clarity is needed regarding what requires a festival permit, what category tournaments fall into, and what will trigger the need for an actual rental. Capacity numbers for each of the venues was discussed, and further details will be included after consultation with Jeff Campbell. Fees and available hours will also need to be finalized, as well as clarification of liability insurance needs. A distinction between recurring uses and one-time rentals was also noted as important.

It was agreed that Ms. Lisaius and Ms. Campbell will update the draft documents as discussed for further review at an upcoming meeting.

Other and Ongoing Business

Mill Road Reclassification

The site visit for Mill Road will be held on November 7.

Covered Bridge

Ms. Klein Corrigan noted that a signed contract from the Vermont Agency of Transportation, has been received, and that the off site milling work is being completed, meaning progress will soon be seen at the bridge site.

The abutment engineering work which had been completed using grant funds was discussed; those funds will need to be returned if there is no follow up project undertaken. The grant is valid until 2035, but there was some discussion regarding federal grant funds leading to onerous requirements to be met, which is in part the reason the previous bids were much higher than anticipated. It was agreed to ask DuBois & King to put together another bid packet and solicit responses again before making a final decision on whether to proceed with any abutment work at this time.

Administrative Items

MOTION: *A motion to approve the minutes of September 19 and October 10, 2023 passed unanimously.*

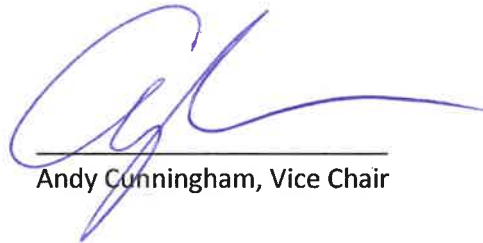
The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard



Luke Youmell, Chair



Andy Cunningham, Vice Chair



Bob Ackland



Camilla Behn



Devin Klein Corrigan

