
Moretown Select Board Meeting
August 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM
79 School Street
In the John Hoogenboom Meeting Room
Via ZOOM Meeting ID 620 104 2716 or call in: 929-205-6099

Members Present: Tom Martin, John Hoogenboom via ZOOM, Don Wexler, Robin Campbell, Callie Streeter via ZOOM

Guests: Clark Amadon (Clean Water Committee), Laura Arnesen (MRVRD), Michelle Beard, Wayne Fisher (MRVTV), John Schmeltzer, Ilse Sigmund, Kevin Sweeney, Rae Washburn, Don Wenner, Carol Chamberlin

Meeting was called to order by Tom at 6:00PM

Public Comment:

Don Wenner and Ilse Sigmund explained that they would like to address the impacts to their Moretown Mountain Road driveway that resulted from the July flooding, and were seeking clarification regarding the delineation of responsibilities and ensuring that they would not be completing work that would need to be corrected at a future point. Tom explained some of the process being followed by the Town, and indicated that Rae Washburn would visit the site and help to outline the best measures to be undertaken at the property.

Kevin Sweeney explained that he and the other residents of Edge Drive are working to determine how to handle the new watercourses above their property so that their road/driveways may be repaired and not eroded again. It was confirmed that Rae Washburn and Carol Chamberlin would be meeting with a representative of the EWP Grant program on Friday. Kevin also confirmed that Velco had been contacted and a representative has indicated that a hydrologist will be engaged to study the area impacted by the Velco line and infrastructure.

Michelle Beard announced that this year's Morefest Bake-Off will be an 'Apple Show Down' and asked for Selectboard members to serve as judges.

Mad River Valley Recreation District (MRVRD) Discussion:

Laura Arnesen had provided materials for Selectboard review prior to the meeting, and was available to answer questions from Board members regarding Moretown's joining the Rec District as a 'half' member, paying \$20K annually rather than the \$40K contributed by the other three Valley towns. Tom polled the Board members, who were generally in favor of Moretown's participation, noting that there is sufficient participation by Moretown residents in Rec District programs and use of facilities to justify joining. There were also suggestions offered regarding getting relevant information out to local residents regarding the benefits of joining.

In response to questions, Laura explained that, outside of a large increase seen recently due to establishing the part-time Director position which she holds, annual increases, in the years they are requested, have generally been a few thousand dollars. She also explained that a significant portion of the funds contributed are used to supply grant awards to local groups who provide for public recreation opportunities, and that once the town becomes a paying contributor, Moretown groups would be eligible to apply for grants.

It was agreed that an Article will be included in the Warning for the March 2025 Town Meeting, asking voters to approve the \$20K expenditure for Moretown's joining the MRVRD. The Board intends to reconnect with Laura in the fall to discuss further how to provide relevant information to residents.

Update on 2024 Flood/Parking Lot Project:

Rae Washburn reported that all Town roads are open at this point, and that it is likely that all culverts are open as well. Rae also noted the following:

- There are still two Mountain Road culverts and one Common Road culvert that need to be upgraded.
- Some work is still in the design phase
- The Road Crew and private contractors have completed much good work
- Permits for removing material from certain stream points have been issued, but logistics need to be worked out through the State, homeowners, funding sources, etc.
- A bid for Ward Brook Road culvert work is available for signing
- Waiting for delivery of additional culverts
- The Road Crew is working to get Class 3 roads up to 'snowplow' level, and will then address Class 4 road damage
- Access to Ward Brook Road will be via Hog Hollow Road during culvert replacement that is needed on Ward Brook Road
- The Road Crew is notifying people as best they are able regarding temporary daily road closures due to culvert replacements and other work

Regarding the ongoing parking lot project at the Town Office/School site, Rae reported that, due to the departure of one contractor and subsequent engagement of another, some delay has been experienced. He also noted that the soil conditions (clay) have created some difficulties. However, Rae indicated that it was hoped that paving will commence in the coming week.

MOTION: *Tom made a motion to accept the bid from Avery Excavation for the replacement of Ward Brook Road culverts #1 and #2, in the amount of \$636,470. The motion was seconded by Callie, and passed unanimously.*

Wastewater Project:

Clark Amadon reported that the property owners at the two most viable sites for disposal had both decided not to move forward, leaving the project at a standstill. He indicated that this likely means that the ARPA award for this work will be rescinded. Moving forward, Clark anticipates that the engineering work will continue, in order to to finalize a design for the disposal site investigated on Pony Farm Road, although that site does not have the capacity needed for an adequate system.

Clark also noted that strategies such as grants to homeowners for new/shared systems in the village, but that the State is not enthusiastic about such solutions. He also mentioned how the development of a public water supply would enable continued/further septic disposal for homeowners, but pointed out some of the difficulties involved in owning/operating a water system. Clark outlined that some invoices will still be coming in from Otter Creek, but that the State has assured the Town that all expenses to date will be covered, with potentially additional funds available if necessary to get the plans to a 90% design. He explained that he will likely provide another update in late September or early October.

Board members thanked Clark for his diligent work on this project, which has laid the groundwork for future efforts regarding wastewater disposal, noting he has given a lot of time and leadership to this work.

Reports & Communications:

Errors and Omissions: Tom outlined an Errors and Omissions report that had been submitted for approval, which included two properties.

MOTION: *Tom made a motion to approve the Errors and Omissions as requested. The motion was seconded by Robin, and passed unanimously.*

EWP Program Request: The document related to the previously approved request for an investigation of the area above Edge Drive and Noyes Road was signed.

Fox Farm Road Update: Tom reported that the culverts have been delivered.

Forest Management Plan: This has been completed and signed.

Open Meeting Law Changes: These will be discussed at an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

Village Crosswalk: Don will follow up on this matter.

Library Grant: No communication has been received yet.

Governor's Discussion Re Public Safety: Don indicated that he is able to attend this meeting, as Tom is not able to.

Traffic Calming: Don reported that VTrans/CVRPC has communicated that signage may be appropriate to address traffic calming.

Warrants were signed.

Minutes: The minutes of July 15, 2024 were approved.

Old Business: No further business was addressed during this portion of the meeting.

New Business: No new business items were brought forward.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.