

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Steering Committee
September 18, 2014**

In Attendance:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectman; Carol Chamberlin, Planning Commissioner

Waitsfield: Chris Pierson, Selectman

Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectman

CVRPC:

Sugarbush: Margo Wade

Chamber of Commerce: Peter Hans

MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz, Dara Torre

Mad River Glen:

Others: John Stokes, Jeff Whitingham (Mad River Recreation District), Don Swain (Skatium), Will Flender (Mad River Path Association), John Atkinson (Mad River Riders)

The minutes of August 21, 2014 were accepted as written.

Recreation: Joshua updated the committee on the MRV Active-Transportation plan proposal, which has received wide support from Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston and Moretown as well as financial commitment for the match. Granville and Duxbury have also been contacted. Although funding for the Active-Transportation plan, if approved, will have more of a trail focus, Joshua is confident the opportunity to explore a wider vision and direction for recreation planning in the Valley will result. Joshua welcomed guests from several Valley recreation organizations.

Jeff Whitingham of the MRV Recreation District expressed his goal for increased collaboration in determining community priorities to guide the Recreation District's grant-making process. Long-term planning has not been a focus of the organization. Bob suggested integrating some meetings between the MRVPD and the Recreation District. Jared suggested revisiting the Recreation District's bylaws, which he believes do provide planning capacity. Improved community engagement was discussed as the required vehicle for increased resources. Joshua added that a master Recreation Plan could help guide this.

Don Swain stated the Skatium has plans to become a multifunction facility, and he hopes to share these plans with area organizations in a facilitated, streamlined manner. The Skatium's expansion will be privately funded, and will therefore require a detailed community picture and proposed usage for investors. The group discussed the Recreation Plan process, which will include a public recreation summit as well as different forms of public surveys. In the mean time, good tracking of visitor and local usage of recreation facilities was suggested. Jared invited participation in the Recreation working group, an outgrowth of the recent Economic

Summit, which will begin strategy sessions this fall and winter. John Atkinson referenced the recent usage tracking at Blueberry Lake and stated that he has been working on a 10-year plan for public lands usage.

Director's Report: Peter Hans provided an update on the Chamber, and the recent exit of Susan Klein from the Executive Director position. Lisa Davis will work as acting ED through year-end, and they are taking the time to plan administrative efficiencies and explore collaboration. In addition to the info in his Director's Report, Joshua said he participated recently in a dialogue on youth hosted at the Waitsfield United Church, following up on John Boyer's (Washington County Youth Services Bureau) recent visit to the MRVPD. Margo provided an update on the new Sugarbush parking lot, which has not yet received Act 250 permits. The process to date has taken three months, but she is confident the project will be completed on time if the permits are received next week. Joshua offered to provide any possible assistance.

Tri-Town Meeting: Joshua reported having reached out to town staff on thresholds for requests. If the same amount is being requested as the previous year, organizations may submit requests in writing. In Warren, if the request is new or represents an increase, 5% of voters are required. To simplify the Tri-Town meeting and allow more discussion time, Jared proposed limiting request presentations to the MRVPD, Recreation District, and Solid Waste District, and to any other requestors over \$10K. For some requests under \$10K, written requests with back-up detail will be encouraged. Jared offered to help plan the Tri-Town Meeting agenda.

MRVPD Draft Annual Report: Dara presented a slide show of progress on the Annual Report to date, and solicited feedback on additional data points for inclusion. Bob suggested snowfall trends/skier visits, bed-base numbers (historical), and the number of registered voters. The group discussed the worker inflow/outflow data and how well it can capture telecommuting trends. Historical meals/rooms/alcohol data from the 1960's through today was suggested.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m., General Wait House.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dara Torre