

**TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT**  
**Three Board Summit Meeting Minutes of**  
**October 29, 2009**

**BOS Preparation and Discussion:** The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Waitsfield Elementary School by Kate Williams. Present were Waitsfield Selectboard members Kate Williams (Chair), Charlie Hosford (Vice-Chair), Paul Hartshorn, Bill Parker, and Sal Spinosa; Fayston Selectboard members Jared Cadwell, Ed Read, Robert Vasseur; Warren Selectboard member Ken Frey; Waitsfield Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Warren Town Administrator Cindi Hartshorn-Jones, and Assistant to the Fayston Selectboard Patti Lewis, and Waitsfield Minutes Taker Nancy Myrto; John Malter, Susan Klein, Sue Frechette, Chuck Martell, Helmut Heitzker, Ken Felderman, Margo Wade, Steve Gladczuk, Meredith Burkett, Tawnya Kristen, Chris Cole, Joshua Schwartz, Kara Herlihy (Valley Reporter), and Tony Italiano (MRVTV Channel 44/45).

**MRV Solid Waste Alliance:** John Malter reported that the name of the organization has been changed to Mad River Resource Management Alliance to show that the material the group collects is not waste, but a resource. He described the major programs Mad River Resource Management Alliance is involved in, including the household hazardous waste collections, electronic waste collections, tire and metal collections, household hazardous waste events, textile recycling program, product stewardship program, and Green Up Days. Work is also done with the various communities on newsletters, educational programs, and compost bins. The grow compost commercial facility, located adjacent to the Moretown Landfill, has initiated operation and will be creating a high quality commercial compost. This program will give farms, restaurants, schools, and people an opportunity to bring food scraps for composting. Brush and landscaping materials will also be collected and chipped. The Moretown Landfill is now generating power for approximately 2,500 households through their methane collection and generation system. The life of the Moretown Landfill is approximately 12 to 14 years. Studies have been done to possibly expand to the south side in the future.

Mr. Malter explained that the budget for the upcoming year is \$5,000 less than the current year due to the projected reduction in composting bins, tires, and collection of household hazardous waste. The per capita will stay at \$2 per person based on the 2008 population estimate which shows Fayston down by 12, Waitsfield down by 27, and Warren down by 11.

**MRV Chamber:** Susan Klein asked that the towns of Waitsfield and Fayston contribute \$1,000 to offset costs associated with producing the Mad River Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July event held in Warren Village. The total expense budget for the event is approximately \$16,000 annually. All event production time is donated by the Chamber of Commerce at an estimate of 60-100 hours. Vendor fees and local sponsors help offset some of the costs, but approximately \$4,000 - \$7,000 is borne by the Town of Warren. The Town of Warren also donates their law enforcement hours. Sugarbush donates the fireworks at an approximate cost of \$7,500. The biggest unknown on the income side is the ticket sales. People are encouraged to donate \$1 for the event, but it is not required. The event brings between 4,500 and 9,000 people annually.

**MRV Health Center:** Sue Frechette reported that this year's focus has been on healthy activities for kids and families. Programs the MRV Health Center has supported are the Valley Walk and Roll, the Kids Fun Run and Mad Dash, and for the first time this year a bike swap. They are also hosting, as well as supporting the launch, of the Mad River Cancer Support Group.

Mr. Martell reported they are working with the Central Vermont Medical Practices group to hire another physician and nurse practitioner. Ms. Frechette explained there is such a critical need for physicians and nurse practitioners in Vermont that it is necessary to promote the benefits of living in this community. Ms. Frechette noted that there is 1,400 square feet of office space for rent. The community space on the first floor, approximately 200 square feet will be moved to the second floor, leaving 1,400 square feet to be rented as one office or subdivided twice. Mr. Martell noted that it would be beneficial to rent this space as soon as possible as it does generate revenue to run the facility. They are requesting \$5,000 each from the three towns. The suggestion was made that they also contact the Town of Moretown.

**MRV Seniors:** Helmut Heitzker reported that 2009 was a challenging year for the Mad River Valley Seniors. They lost quite a few members, had some ups and downs, and also had a water problem. The Central Vermont Council on Aging per meal quote for this year was \$3.40. The contract must be committed to in the beginning of the year. This year's contract was for 5,236 meals, at a cost of \$17,488, but only 4,512 meals were served; therefore, the Central Vermont Council on Aging paid \$24,000 less. The Meals on Wheels program is contracted in 2010 for \$4,501 (\$3.44/meal), and is run by volunteers. The CVCLT shut down the center for two weeks due to high e. coli content in the water. The fuel costs in 2008 were \$829 and \$2,024 in 2009. Electricity in 2008 ran at \$1,099 and \$1,498 in 2009. Fundraisers, including the Jail & Bail, donation cans, and mother's day cards, totaled \$3,256. Heli noted that the Mad River Valley Seniors are requesting \$7,000 from each town in fiscal year 2010. This is a \$1,000 increase per town.

**MRV Recreation District:** Ken Felderman reported that they are requesting \$12,500 from each town in fiscal year 2010, the same as the previous six years. He noted several projects finished or ongoing as follows: the Warren Skateboard Park is now complete; the Fayston PTO line item is for playground improvements; the Flemer property money will be used for defining access into the property and signage; interpretative signs for the trail behind the Big Picture for the Friends of the Mad River; scholarships for Girls on the Run in Warren, Waitsfield, and Warren; Mad River Park is up by \$1,000 as they have entered into a two year agreement with Kingsbury as opposed to one year; maintenance for the Mad River Park field; funding for a grant writer and half time executive director for Mad River Path Association; Mad River Valley Planning bike project; assistance to the Skatium in day-to-day operations; and the Warren fitness trail.

**GMTA:** Chris Cole reported that GMTA provides demand response transportation and seasonal bus service. He also noted that requested funding will remain the same as last year. Tawnya Kristen noted that there has been an increase in needing accessibility to the senior center, food shelves, medical and dental appointment, and the like. Mr. Cole noted that a lot of drivers are volunteers and are reimbursed at the rate of \$.55 per mile. Ms. Burkett reported that the figures are based on 1,749 riders over a 3-4.5 month period.

**Mad River Valley Planning District:** Joshua Schwartz reported that the Planning District focuses on ski area development, specifically Sugarbush; supporting plans for each of the three towns; and intermunicipal projects. The MRVPD started a Zoning Administrator Brown Bag Lunch where zoning administrators from the three towns discuss different ideas and projects. The MRVPD also started bi-annual Tri- town Conservation Commission meetings, is working with Efficiency Vermont to create the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Pilot Project; implemented a consortium Municipal Education Grant; and worked with the Strategic Planning Committee that put together a 15 year strategic plan. The MRVPD is also focusing on updating and maintaining the data base, creating an annual report, and making it more useful to create different reports. They have created a new partnership with UVM, specifically with the CDAE program, that has 15 students working with approximately 20 community members to look at the structure of the Valley Futures Network, Mad River Path Association and membership, and an inventory of Renewable Energy Projects. The MRVPD is assisting in the development of the Mad River Energy Study. The Northern Forest Alliance's MRV Community Biomass Project has completed the first of a three year action research project which seeks to enhance municipal energy independence throughout the Valley. The MRVPD provided grant application support and local coordination surrounding the development of a Central Vermont-focused online trail network database, entitled Trail Finder. The MRVPD continues coordination efforts with the purchase of Kingsbury Farm by the VT Food bank. The Mad River Valley Housing Coalition has developed and distributed the Guide to Creating and Renting Accessory Apartments in the Mad River Valley. Route 100 and Route 17 within the Valley are included in the Mad River Byway designation of the National Byway Program. Mr. Schwartz noted that for the past 8 years the Mad River Valley Planning District has been level-funded, but will be requesting a modest increase for FY 2011, the amount of which will be available in November. Selectman Cadwell noted that some of the increase would go toward insurance for Mr. Schwartz and his family.

**Final Discussion and Comments:** Mr. Schwartz noted that the Steering Committee is another avenue to discuss items that all three towns may have. He also noted that Sugarbush contributes financially to the Mad River Valley Planning District, but they do not vote.

There was discussion about law enforcement coverage, the funding from Waitsfield and Warren, and the possibility that Fayston may reconsider and contribute to the funding. There was agreement to approach this subject in a different venue.

**Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Myrto  
Minutes Taker

and reviewed by

Valerie Capels  
Town Administrator