

## **MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday February 1st, 2024: MRBA Office**

Attendees: John Little, Lindsey Wight, Paul Stanley, Sarah Lunn, Craig Cimmons, Wendy Scott, Kate Donlon, Sarah Cushing

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:40pm after celebrating PS birthday with cake and of course milk!
- 2) JL motioned to accept the January and November meeting minutes, PS seconded. All in favor; and the minutes were accepted with minor grammar changes.

Carryover topics from January minutes: LW will ask EF to share maps of the Jay Community Land project. A property previously owned by Quiros in Jay is up for discussion of potential uses including recreation, a fire pond, nursery site, and housing. Next step is to find out what the appraisal for fair market value is and the conservation easement value is. Meeting held 1/31/24 to further discuss the value of the land.

### 3) Administrative business

Board members looked over and accepted the February Warrant. SC motioned to accept the warrant, PS seconded. JL and CC abstained. Discussion was made about opening a credit card which LW will look into.

Board Officers: JL will serve as MRBA Board President, SC will serve as MRBA Board Vice President, PS will serve as MRBA Board Treasurer, and WS will serve as MRBA Board Secretary.

ECO Americorps member for 2024-2025: SL& LW discussed potential roles for the ECO member, including but not exclusive to, assisting and running a watershed education program with local schools, updating project maps, and helping with the nursery. Cost will be a total of \$9000, but split between UMATR and MRBA as the member will be shared. CC motioned to approve hosting a member for next year, PS seconded. All in favor and motion accepted. An application to be a host site will be submitted by the deadline of March 8th, 2024.

### 4) Grants/Projects update:

LaRosa nominations included: 5 continued sites (Troy and Westfield); willing to do the Waste Water Transfer Facility again if requested; also requested 12 new/historic sites: 3 on Jay Branch, another higher up on Mill Brook and another on Taft Brook (Westfield), a 2022 site on Coburn, Big Falls (historic site: impacts from flood?), Chase dam, and 4 on Giddings Brook, Enosburg. - Suggestion to sample Mudd Creek?

2024 Work Plan - list of upcoming projects and timeline goals: LW went over the current project and upcoming projects that MRBA staff are working on this year. Nursery and education programs are large focuses for the upcoming year. Also will be trying to use liquid Nitrogen on knotweed.

### 5) 2024 Events:

Open House – May 19. Consider doing a kayak raffle? - CC will investigate.

Clean-Up – June 22. Swanton: John’s Bridge

Summer Sessions in Montgomery – funding and musician – discussion about possible bands. Suggestions include: Tender Bellies, Phil Gtaziano, Dead Sessions Lite, Ben Farney. Discussion about sponsors as well.

Other fundraiser ideas: Jay Peak poster w/QR “donate”, event at Jay during spring runoff, golf tournament? Custom shirt; Bumblebee Bistro or other business sponsors?

6) Planning and Communications. DISCUSS NEXT MEETING

7) Other business?

PS discussed the Floodplain Meeting which was organized by the NRPC and held on Monday night in Franklin.

8) Next meeting - March 7, 2024: MRBA office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.