

## **MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday May 2nd, 2024: MRBA Office**

Attendees: John Little, Paul Stanley, Sarah Lunn, Sarah Cushing, Kate Donlon, Cynthia Scott, Dani Boyle in person at MRBA Office; Lindsey Wight, Corrina King, and Debbie Girouard via zoom.

1) Meeting called to order at 6:38pm after welcoming DB to our Board Meetings!

2) JL motioned to accept the April meeting minutes, CS seconded. All in favor; and the minutes were accepted. Carryover topics from April minutes: Clean Water meeting hosted by DEC on April 5 - LW was not able to attend, but EF did. Rasputitsa had a wash station up on the resort. Discussion about herbicide use at tree planting sites. Herbicide discussion involved the risks of herbicide use near waterways. PS and SC recommend caution and to consider manual management. Plant before grass takes over and then do maintenance. DB recommended reaching out to Mike Bald (Got Weeds) about mechanical control.

3) Administrative business

Board members looked over and accepted the April Warrant. PS motioned to accept the warrant, CS seconded. JL abstained.

2024 Budget: LW discussed the budget to actuals for Q1 of 2024. Board would like the information presented separately for office expenses vs project expenses, so LW will adjust the reporting format for future financial check-ins.

4) Grants/Projects update:

Starr's Pit: LW and SL visited the pit owned by the Starr's with Jim MacCartney (NPS/UMATR) and Amanda Sayles (US ArmyCorps). During the 2023 July Flooding the pit was breached by the river.

Jay Land Project - The Town of Jay made an offer to purchase at the value that came back from our appraisal; no response yet. Applied for a small grant from VNRC to facilitate work on this parcel and the formation of a Community Land Trust. DB recommended contacting VHCB to gauge their interest in assisting.

Spring tree planting planning: planted 750 trees across two locations with the help of students from Newport high school in Lowell and help from the CatRock Ventures group of students from the Bronx in North Troy.

Nursery updates: We planted approximately 750 trees in a tilled row in Jay.

Upcoming grant opportunities:

- LCBP Disadvantaged Communities; WUV Education and Outreach; WUV Capacity

5) Planning, Fundraising, and Communications

New Bylaws - CK sent old bylaws and the new bylaws to Board members to compare.

Refining Subcommittees - Board discussion about starting Subcommittees and discussion of the different roles within subcommittees including having one staff person be each subcommittee's point person. Discussions could be held over emails, and the conclusions would be shared with the Board at meetings.

Strategic Plan: Priorities for the organization - moved to the next Board meeting.

6) 2024 Events:

Open House – May 19. CK has contact that can create wooden ornaments. CK, BJ, and LW will post on FPF to share the word.

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

Quebec visit/get-together?

7) Other business?

8) Next meeting - June 6th, 2024: MRBA office. July meeting moved from July 4th to July 11th, 2024 - BBQ at Paul and Linda's!

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.