

## **MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday June 6th, 2024: MRBA Office**

Attendees: John Little, Craig Cimmmons, Cynthia Scott, Dani Boyle, Debbie Girouard, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Ellen Fox at the MRBA Office; Paul Stanley and Sarah Cushing via zoom.

1) Meeting called to order at 6:38pm.

2) SC motioned to accept the May meeting minutes, PS seconded. All in favor; and the minutes were accepted.

Carryover topics from May minutes:

3) Event overview: Open House - Event was an overall success, and LW & SL recommend repeating it as an annual event. Roughly had attendance of ~45 people throughout the two hours, with a majority of new faces. Suggestions for next year include getting nametags

4) Administrative business

Board members looked over and accepted the May Warrant. CS motioned to accept the warrant, SC seconded. JL and CC abstained.

Board member votes: Debbie Girouard and Dani Boyle have shown interest in joining the MRBA Board. Board votes unanimously to accept. DG and DB are now members of the MRBA Board!

LCBP Letter of Concern: Local Watershed partners of the MRBA that also receive grant funding through the LCBP have been having discussions about frustration with grant approval timelines passing by program dates. LW is seeking approval to, with the support and assistance of other local watershed groups (Missisquoi partners), to write a letter of concern to the funders of the LCBP grant programs. JL made motion to support LW in the letter; CC seconded. Board approved the motion unanimously.

5) Grants/Projects update:

Jay Land Project - receiver did not accept the offered purchase price from the Town of Jay, but did supply their appraisal for comparison. Piano parcel outside of larger parcel - option to purchase; good location for the Nursery. The Town of Jay submitted an "in the middle" offer which is currently being pursued. LW and EF will be attending upcoming meetings with the Jay Selectboard and continue to support this conservation effort. MRBA will also be seeking funding through the LCBP Land Acquisition grant due in July.

EF received Technical Assistance for visioning: EF spent a day participating in a charrette with professional landscape designers for ideas around the potential uses and building ideas for the nursery and the Jay Land parcel. The theme was creation of resilient spaces for community building, with EF design focusing on creating a public meeting space, space to house potential interns, and formal learning space housed in a combined building with climate change in mind.

Upcoming grant opportunities:

- LCBP Land Acquisition - due 7/17: MRBA will be applying for the Jay Land Project

6) LEAP Intern(s) - Hired Aine Remmers for the summer as MRBA's LEAP Intern. She will be starting after school finishes later in June, and working through the remainder of the summer.

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

8) 2024 Events:

- Streamwise event in Fairfield on June 19th

- Clean-Up – June 22. Swanton: John's Bridge: Meeting at the Babbie Access point at 9 AM.

Please sign-up via the website if intending on attending.

- Missisquoi River Fishing Festival in Enosburg on June 29th: Hosted by Franklin Co. NRCD, LW & SL will be in attendance representing MRBA!

- Quebec visit/get-together?

9) Other business? Seek adding MRBA Office to the NFCT Map, maybe a sign underneath the bridge to alert paddlers.

10) Next meeting - July 11th, 2024 - BBQ at Paul and Linda's! August 1, 2024 at MRBA Office in East Berkshire.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.