

MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday March 2nd, 2023: MRBA Office

Attendees: Craig Cimmons, John Little, Paul Stanley, Wendy Scott, Kate Donlon, Lindsey Wight.

- 1) Meeting began at 6:40pm with greetings and introductions
- 2) Review of February meeting minutes: WS motioned to accept with noted edits, PS seconded. All in favor; minutes accepted with changes.
- 3) Administrative business
 - Moving forward with QuickBooks online and bookkeeper efforts: discussion of how best to use QBO - can we portion out the admin time to each project; track our hours to the QBO code. .
 - 2023 Budget: Next month we will be able to see the first quarter of this year, and how that is tracking relating to our budget.
 - Board Recruitment: Craig will draft up a recruitment letter that we can all share with prospective Board members. We can use this language to craft FPF posts, put flyers in towns, and put in our newsletters. Also would be great to have this for the next blog post.
- 4) Organizational Planning: needs and highlights. We discussed MRBA Strengths/Opportunities and Weaknesses/Threats. Lindsey will also send out a request from other Board members who aren't here, and will share the 2011 Strengths and Weaknesses document.

Strengths/Opportunities	Weaknesses/Threats
New office space	Need more Board members
project-oriented	fundraising
Strong staff with low turnover	Need to grow recognition of the organization
Low Board turnover	- A specific: searching on google for "MRBA" doesn't bring us up.
congenial	
Ability to get grants	
Longevity of the organization	
W&S	
Community connections (esp Ellen)	
Relations with towns (also an opportunity)	
Opportunity: relationship with Jay - could we raise \$ on-site ["thanks for the water that makes the snow!"]. Put literature in the rooms/in the 'library'. Get a sign in the "tunnel", or elsewhere. SHOULD BE PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING PLAN	

5) Grants update: possible banks in need of stabilization? Tyler Branch near Vaillancourt's garage? Also: follow up again with the Trout River floodplain at Nathan Wiles?

6) Open House planning: Open House will be 9-11am; we will get coffee/tea and treats from local businesses (Cafe Oma and Barn Owl). Paul and Linda will bring some goodies, too. Should be a good time!

7) Soiree planning: we had said that we don't need a sound system, but experience with the Opera House suggests that it would be good to have microphones for the presenters. Also, send the digital evite to the Board to share - some suggested folks: Nancy Patch, Charlie Hancock, Jim Cameron

8) 2023 events

- VT Flower Show Mar 3-5: sent materials via mail; Wendy and Kate will both take a shift
- Office Open House Mar 19: both orgs
- Conservation Commissions "regional bioblitz" will be happening at numerous spots this spring/summer
- Soiree Mar 23
- Quebec visit/get-together: FNLC working with Pierre LeDuc for something during Mid-May? Lindsey will inquire. Would be great to do a canoe tour with someone - follow up with Marlana.
- Clean-Ups: set one for Sat, July 8; location TBD

9) Other business: March 30th there will be a bioengineering workshop at Paul and Linda's farm - Franklin Co NRCD is hosting.

Timeline of the two newsletters: seemed very close together; confusing. In the future, let's separate them.

Trout Brook signage - Sarah received the mock-up of the sign, so we discussed. No call to action on the signage; what do with this information? Could put a link or QR code "for more info"? Also, is there a maintenance plan - who is responsible? The word "Attention" seems alarming (is it bad?). Can we have input on the sign? Overall though: if it requires no effort, go for it!

Task: update the Board members on our website.

Next meeting - April 6, 2023 at the office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm