

MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday December 1st, 2022: MRBA Office

Attendees: Craig Cimmons, John Little, Cynthia Scott, Paul Stanley, Linda Stanely, Wendy Scott, Brian Jerosse, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Jim Townsend, Corrina King, Ellen Fox, Eric King, Mike Manahan, Ruth Little

1) Note the early start time for our Holiday Potluck: please bring a dish to share while we enjoy each other and the new space! Guests are very welcome.

- Enjoyed our potluck, and marveled at the new office space! Business meeting began at 7:40 PM.

2) Review of November meeting minutes: CC motioned to accept, PS seconded. All in favor.

3) Event overview: knotweed bonfire

- Bonfire was an overall success! Had attendance of around 25-30 people; One snafu had to deal with miscommunication on the part of the Fire Department. Learned it is a good idea to check in with them the day of just in case as well. We also learned not to use pallets again for next year's event because of the amount of time that nail clean-up required. Next year we will also plan to bring a tarp and pail for the ash at the end of the fire. Next year we plan to make it a larger celebration with town rec board involvement. Potentially bring back pumpkin lighting?

4) Administrative business

Updating equipment for the office - printer investigation

- Plan to still lease printer if able for cost reduction. CC is still investigating and will talk to the IT guys at Jay for their thoughts. Bakersfield FD has has a lease on their printer with Xerox

Volunteer hours for Board

- LW will be sending out a form to fill in board volunteer hours. Reach out to her if there is an issue with the form.

5) Outreach

Holiday letter - donations solicitation

- Holiday letter will be finished shortly and sent out with donation solicitation

Open House (Jan 7) invitations - how to spread the word?

- Jan 7th seems a little close, LW suggests waiting until office space is more settled in better
- Suggested date change to March 18th from 9-11 AM. Morning open house

6) Project update and planning:

Town Connections - update; set Soiree date?

- LW, EF, CK, and SL have been attending town meetings throughout our watershed towns. Goal is to perform outreach, and begin making connections before invitation to Soiree.

Upcoming grants: Project Development; Streamwise; LCBP Org Support

Other project updates?

- LW, EF, and SL met with a math teacher from North Country, Bryan Dickensen, for a conversation about the LCBP E&O large grant application. Intending to apply for a special field studies type course with the math class with applicable data from tree plantings, etc. Will update the board once the application is submitted.

7) 2023 Events - Advertising? Posters? Online Events? Other?

- Plan to make posters for all 2023 events

8) Other Business -

- CS brought attention to the increased snowmaking plans at Jay Peak. LW and SL had meeting with Jay Peak & Jim MacCartney about future snowmaking plans to withdraw from the Mt. Missisquoi. Mountain has not entered the permitting stage, but will eventually in the next few years. LW and SL feel as though we have a good relationship with Jay and will be involved with the project.
- Concern about the river impacts of the construction and withdrawal of water
- Jay Branch erosion has greatly increased since Jay snowmaking (and development)
- Smuggs makes snow with gray water
- Talk to the state about alternative methods?

9) Next meeting – February 3, 2022 – via Zoom, will begin at 6:30 PM instead of 7PM.

10) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.