

## **MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday July 6th, 2023: MRBA Office**

Attendees: Craig Cimmons, John Little, Paul Stanley, Kate Donlon, Brian Jerose, Wendy Scott, Lindsey Wight, Sarah Lunn, Corrina King, and guests Eric King, Carissa Stein, Linda Stanley, Tom Bryce, Heather Murphy, Cindy and Jim Weed, and Pat Murphy

- 1) It was once again a lovely evening on the most beautiful hill in Bakersfield - our neverending thanks to Paul and Linda for hosting our annual takeover of their home and farm! Many thanks as well for inviting our friends at the Missisquoi River Band to play, and of course to the band and Tom for serenading us! The food was - as always - delicious: aren't we lucky to have such talented Board members, friends, and loved ones?!
- 2) We did manage to pull ourselves away from the revelry for a business meeting that began with a review of June meeting minutes: JL motioned to accept, CCseconded. All in favor; and the minutes were accepted.
- 3) Event overview: tough start to summer for on-water events. The Montgomery Bioblitz provided different stations for students to explore the woods, and had good attendance from the school. The Bakersfield Community Water Walk explored a lovely stream with several members of the Conservation Commission and Bakersfield residents. Lots of trash, but the stream is in good shape and well connected to the floodplain. It would be neat to organize a clean-up with the students when the school year resumes. We also pulled off an ECO AmeriCorps clean-up from the stone house on Marvin Rd to our office. High water meant we didn't find a ton of trash (no tires!), but it was a good time nonetheless.
- 4) Administrative business
  - Board members looked over the June Warrant. No questions; BJmotioned to accept; KD seconded; the June Warrant was accepted.
  - Office signs - Sarah created several options that will be printed 6'x1.5' on metal and hung above the big windows at the office. The Board preferred option #2, but with the curved font from option #3.
  - Phone tribulations: AT&T struggles - seems we cannot make the old phone work well. Switch providers? Consumer Cellular? Get a Trac Phone? Buy a cheap refurbished device and stay with AT&T? Get a landline? PS now has Fidium service (fiber), and is pleased with it. The office has Comcast for phone and internet. JL will ask if Fidium is a possibility. For the next meeting, Lindsey will make a comparison table for these options.
- 5) Projects: Our LEAP interns, Charles (Richford) and Aine (Montgomery/NCUHS), started this week; we're looking forward to a good month with them. Some knotweed work and some tree care: scythe to cut knotweed? Is there an age restriction on using weed whackers?

As mentioned in the Events Overview, we held our first Community Water Walk in Bakersfield. We have two more planned in North Troy and in Enosburg, and will also offer the Get Lost Knotweed maze/path in the fall.

Stream Wise assessments: we will conduct 4 of these on private lands in the headwaters of the watershed; Franklin Co NRCDC is looking for landowners in the Franklin County portion of the watershed - if you own stream frontage, please reach out to them!

6) Grants update: received our Large E&O request from LCBP for a partner project with Bryan Dickenson, a math teacher at North Country (and new UMATR Committee member). Excited to kick off this GIS/land assessment work with them this fall.

7) 2023 events: July 8: Cleanup from Enosburg (below dam) to Kane Rd. July 15: Missisquoi River Paddle-Pedal. July 19: St Albans Bay Park - Lake Champlain Storytelling. July 25: North Troy Community Water Walk. Also a cleanup at the end of July (26th?), planned by the interns. August 1: Enosburg Community Water Walk? August 26: ANM River Celebration. Quebec visit/get-together?

JL and WS will run canoe sweep. Kate may be able to volunteer for Paddle-Pedal - Lindsey will connect her with Susan. The Vermont Herptofauna and Nature Center can do a talk at the ANM River Celebration.

8) Organization Planning: pushed off until a future meeting (- August?).

9) Other business: the new Rail Trail construction: Black Creek needs some love and re-vegetation - some willows were taken out along Ryan Rd. Talk to VTrans about doing some plantings?

10) Next meeting - August 3, 2023: MRBA office. This is Field Days week...

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.