

## MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday January 6th, 2022: Zoom

Attendees: Craig Cimmons, John Little, Cynthia Scott, Paul Stanley, Wendy Scott, Brian Jerose, Sarah Lunn, and Lindsey Wight

- 1) Hellos and salutations in the new year! Jim M again sends his regards (and would have sent eggnog bread! – he'll shoot for next year!)
- 2) Review of December meeting minutes: JL motioned to accept, WS seconded. All in favor.
- 3) Second annual photo contest is live: The contest is on Facebook group page and available to share. Submissions are due 1/15/22 for voting.

### 4) Administrative business

- Q4 financial report? - CS presented a Q4 financial report.
- 2021 in Review – LW presented the numbers/graphs of the year.
- Volunteer hours accounting – please fill out and return your Jul-Dec tracking doc to LW
- Board membership for 2022 - Mike Manahan is the only person up for renewal. LW will check in with him to see if he wants to continue serving with us; hopefully we can get back to in-person/hybrid meetings that are more locally inclusive.

Marlena Valenta has been recognized as a new board member. Welcome Marlena!

### 5) 2021 Successes and Highlights

- Tree planting on Tony Brault's land ~25 acres (5.5 funded by us)
- Two acres of trees planted in Lowell
- Three 'boutique' plantings in Montgomery
- MRBA supported 3 interns last summer. Will be able to host the LEAP interns again summer
- Successful Headwaters Soiree in Westfield. We brought a lot of folks from that area together to talk about the watershed.
- Continued relationship with the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi.
- Implemented several experiments with Japanese Knotweed eradication
- Engaged with a community member to host a river clean up with students in Sheldon
  
- North Troy project update: property was appraised for \$1.7 million. The sellers are amenable to that number. There will be a conservation appraisal next, which will help move forward the purchase of the land, with easements in place.

### 6) 2022 plans and hopes

Projects that are secured; project and event hopes? Several ongoing projects and/or projects that wrapped into 2022. Lindsey provided a simplified Programs and Projects update to help guide this; let her know if you have specific questions or want a copy of this document.

Discussion of potential tree-planting opportunities - some properties have been sold; could approach new landowners about trees. Would be good to set up a "regular communication" about tree planting to target property owners - maybe new position could do this?

LaRosa program ideas for 2022. Unclear what scale we will be able to sample. We hope to expand Water InSight with student assistance and LCBP funding. Check in with local high school seniors to see if they are interested in projects.

The River in Quebec - Marlana has made some contact with folks on the Quebec side of the river. She will report on this at the February meeting.

7) Community Relations Coordinator position description and plan - this position will enable LW to pay closer attention to administrative tasks and will also hopefully increase our engagement with the public. We reviewed the draft of the advertisement for the position. LW will send out a final draft for board approval.

Annual reviews for Ellen and Lindsey. Discussion about how to proceed with annual reviews and also discussion about salary. Proposed raise for Project Manager is approved.

8) Other Business - PS asked if town appropriations have gone out; LW confirmed that had been. WS asked if the board could meet at 6:30 PM instead of 7 PM, all in favor.

Craig talked to Allyson - Jay Peak's head of HR; they are working to find time to meet, but says she can help us figure out what it would take to transition to employees.

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

10) Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.