

Meeting of Mad River Valley Selectboards Warren, Waitsfield & Fayston

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
6 – 8:30 PM
Waitsfield Elementary School Gymnasium

AGENDA

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| 6:00 – 6:15 | BOS Preparation and Discussion (light meal supplied) |
| 6:15 – 6:30 | MRV Solid Waste Alliance (John Malter) |
| 6:30 – 6:45 | MRV Health Center (Chuck Martell) |
| 6:45 – 7:00 | MRV Recreation District (Ken Felderman) |
| 7:00 – 7:15 | MRV Seniors (Carole Crossman) |
| 7:15 – 7:30 | Central VT Community Land Trust (Martha Englert) |
| 7:30 – 7:45 | Central VT Home Health & Hospice (Judy Peterson) |
| 7:45 – 8:15 | GMTA (Tawnya Kristen, Meredith Birkett & Tim Bradshaw) |
| 8:15 – 8:30 | Mad River Valley Planning District (Joshua Schwartz) |
| 8:30 – 8:45 | Final discussion and comments |

Minutes of Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Meeting of Mad River Valley Selectboards
Waitsfield Elementary School Gymnasium
6-8:30 PM

Present: Waitsfield Selectboard: Bill Parker, Paul Hartshorn, And Charlie Hosford. Fayston Selectboard: Jared Cadwell, Robert Vasseur, Ed Read. Warren Selectboard: Bob Ackland, Matt Groom and Andrew Cunningham.

Members Absent: Waitsfield: Sal Spinosa. Warren: Kirstin Reilly, Anson Montgomery

Others Present: Valerie Capels, Cindi Jones, John Malter, Chuck Martell, Susan Chamberlin, Ken Felderman, Carole Crossman, Heli Hietzker, Martha Englert, Judy Peterson, Tawnya Kristen, Meredith Birkett & Steve Gladczuk, Joshua Schwartz, Peter Boynton.

6:15 PM – Meeting called to order by Mr. Cunningham.

Mad River Solid Waste Alliance – John Malter – Mr. Malter started the discussion off that the rates will remain the same at \$2.00 per capita which has stayed the same for the past five years. Annual allocation will be leveled funded for 2011 with the same allocations as last year in 2010. Some new things happening are: (1) Book Recycling at the Moretown Landfill has returned. (2) The electronic waste legislation was passed this year by the state. Manufacturers are now responsible for the e-waste for the life of the product. They include: computers, monitors, printers, TVs and CRTs. As of July 1, 2011 all of these items will be taken at no charge. (3) Northfield and Roxbury joined the alliance. The alliance is planning on setting up 3 available sites for the e-waste recycling. In this year's collection events, the alliance collected 15 tons of electronic waste, 12.5 tons of tires and 6 tons of metals. The alliance had 330 households and 22 businesses that participated in the alliance events. Fayston represented 12%, Waitsfield represented 18.5% and Warren represented 14.6%. The alliance is also promoting compo bins and doing educational outreach on trying to reduce organic waste that makes of 25-30% in the current waste stream.

Mr. Hosford inquired if the alliance pays for events in Northfield and Roxbury. Mr. Malter commented that households in Northfield and Roxbury come to the events hosted in the Valley by the MRV Solid Waste Alliance. This year participation from Northfield included 18 households and 4 households from Roxbury. Mr. Parker inquired about the budget and asked Mr. Malter if the budget can sustain the increase of 8-12%. Mr. Malter responded "Yes we can do it with the budget presented." The small increase was roughly due to Mr. Malter spending more time on educational outreach and events. The boards thanked Mr. Malter for his hard work and efforts.

Mad River Health Center – Chuck Martel & Susan Chamberlin – Mr. Martel started the discussion off by saying that the allocation is leveled funded again for 2011 at \$5,000 from each town. A few highlights of the year were: A community open house celebration and in December the health center will be celebrating its 5th anniversary of the opening of the building. On January 9 they will celebrate their 30th anniversary of the forming of the Mad River Valley Health center. In the year from events the health center board asked for public comment on what other health services should be offered. They have been working on getting more providers that meet the Valley health needs as it is very hard to draw providers to the Valley because of the high cost of living here.

The Mad River Health Board has been focusing on adding more mental health providers and to do this, they have keeping rents fairly low. Most of these providers work part-time in other locations to afford to practice here.

The board also has been trying to recruit more family practitioners to the area. They currently have three nurse practitioners and will be adding a new doctor to the practice in June to practice along with Dr. Cook. Ms. Chamberlin highlighted that in the new conference space they are going to be holding more workshops including: a workshop on aging, children's programs and a workshop on quit smoking. Mr. Martel also updated the boards that the building renovations costing \$55,000-\$60,000 are coming along and some of the funding along with Valley Town's contributions is coming from rents, fund raising, the Valley Rotary has provided a \$20,000 grant for 3 years and the Planning District helped the center obtain a state grant for \$17,500. The board of directors at the Mad River Health Center is also very actively involved in the recruiting of new health providers.

Mr. Hosford commended the health center for its growth. Mr. Parker inquired about why the allocations were flat from town to town. Mr. Martel commented that the allocations are based on population and is done on a patient census. All three towns are fairly equal on patients and that the allocations from the three towns represent 15% of total operating budget. Mr. Reed inquired if Moretown was participating in the allocation. Mr. Martel explained that in Moretown it requires an article and that there is not enough usage of the health center to participate. Mr. Cadwell inquired if there was enough need to support two doctors. Mr. Martel commented that yes the need is here to support two doctors. There were two doctors in the Valley at one time previously when Dr. Wargo had his practice unfortunately Dr. Wargo died unexpectedly. Mr. Hosford inquired about that possibly there were people coming from Barre and Montpelier. Mr. Martel responded that they have seen some patients coming from those areas; however, it is on a very small scale.

Mad River Valley Recreation District – Ken Felderman - The recreation district is seeking \$12,500 from each town and has been level funded since 2006. In 2010 the district funded \$30,795. The Mad River Path funds help support the Path Director who has gone out and wrote grants for funding projects on the Path. They just received an \$18,000 from the state recreation and facilities grant program, to build a foot bridge by River Side Park. They now have a good organizational board and a part-time director that has made great success with the funds provided by the recreational district. The Recreational District still has \$8,400 that has been committed to the Flemmer Field and the nature trail behind the Big Picture that has not been paid out yet. For the year 2011, the recreational district has approved \$38,700 with a balance of \$8,400 still available. As in path years, the Path and Skatium are receiving a large part of the funds. Mr. Cadwell inquired if Mr. Felderman has a sense of capacity beyond the daily staffing of facility. Mr. Felderman commented that the skatium board has 3-4 members and that the allocation funds 1/3 of the budget. Mr. Dean Hamel who serves on the Recreation Board is also on Skatium Board for the over site of the funds they receive. Mr. Felderman indicated that the Skatium had requested the funds for a cover over the rink and for the outdoor rink. Mr. Ackland commented that the district was throwing good money after the bad. Mr. Felderman commented that he did have his doubts about the grant project of \$500,000 that the Skatium was pursuing, but also the Mad River Recreational District does have a representative on the board. Mr. Hosford disagreed that the money going to the Skatium was a good use of the Recreational Funds. This is a center of general opportunity for kids to skate, play hockey etc. Mr. Cadwell commented that it is great when it is up and running, but the group keeps coming back year after year to seek funding but there has been no effort by the group to support the

Capital effort. Mr. Cunningham inquired should the skatuim take a 1/3 of just for running the operation. Mr. Cadwell used the Path as an example that they have done a lot of great work, effort, and fundraising and deserves to receive a large part of the allocation. Most of the board members present raised concerns about the skatium. Mr. Felderman would go back and dig deeper into the books of the skatium and express the concerns presented to the other Recreational Board members.

Mad River Seniors – Carol Crossman and Heli Hietzker – Mr. Hietzker commented that the seniors had a great year and that revenue had exceeded the expenses. The total revenue received was \$61,000 and the expenditures were \$55,000. They served 5,873 meals between the meals on wheels and at the evergreen place. Their participation is from 15-24 people daily. All the meals on wheels volunteers drive for free. The average cost is usually about \$4.00 for a meal, the meals on wheels are \$2.31 per meal, \$3.40 served at Evergreen Place and the council of aging provides \$3.40 per meal. They have now started serving breakfast on Monday and the attendance has increased.

The seniors do a lot of fund raising throughout the year and they applied for a grant of \$7,000 from Bernie Sander's office for which they received, to help fund a new commercial dishwasher, new dishes and a floor cleaner. They have donation cans placed at various places in the valley and they received about \$1, 503 in donations. They help to provide clinics on the flu, foot and seminars in tax returns and just recently added is a prepared emergency plan as required by FEMA along with Blizzard Packs. Other fund raising activities that the seniors have done are as follows: the yearly silent auction, a garage sale netting \$1,861, mother's day cards netting \$1,000. The seniors are seeking the same allocation as last year of \$7,000 per town. The Valley Selectboards thanked the Carol Crossman and Heli Hietzker for doing a wonderful job.

Central VT Land Trust – Martha Englert – The Vermont Land Trust is requesting \$1,000 from Waitsfield, \$750 from Warren and \$250 from Fayston. These amounts are the same as requested in 2010. In Warren they just finished the Wheeler Brook Project which consists of 18 new units, in Waitsfield they have the Vermont Mobile Home Park consisting of 29 units and the Mad River Meadows consisting of 12 units senior and 12 units multi-family housing. CVCLT's mission is to create and sustain safe, decent affordable housing and build strong and diverse communities. They will be doing a lot of upgrades to the various properties they own at MRM, EP and Vermont which include tying into the water project in Waitsfield. MRM and EP will see some energy enhancements such as insulation, solar, new boilers and in the Vermont Infrastructure projects. They also help to provide pre and post purchase and foreclosure counseling, homebuyer education classes, and they people to CVCLT's pre-purchase home ownership program. Mr. Ackland inquired if the Wheeler Brook project was full rented? Mr. Schwartz from The Planning District commented that as of 8 months ago, all units were full.

Central VT Home Health – Judy Peterson – Central VT Home Health is the local visiting nurses. They provide services from prenatal to end of life and serve 23 towns. They help people get home more quickly from the hospital providing services from physical therapy, speech, aides, and social work. They offer services 24/7 365 days of year and were just named by the Elete Agency to be in the top 25% nationally for their services and dedication. They provide service regardless the ability to pay if needed. Just last year they provide \$357,912 in charitable care for which CVHHH was not reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid, any third party private insurance or patient/family payment. They were underpaid \$541,000 for the Medicaid services they provided and the total visits they provided were 103,045. They employ 280+ staff members and utilized the services of more than 200 active volunteers.

This year it will be celebrating its 100 year of service to the community. The agency promotes the general welfare of the citizens of central Vermont with health promotion and long term care services. They are requesting level funding the same as last year from all the valley towns.

GMTA – Tawnya Kristen, Meredith Birkett – This year GMTA are asking for the same allocation as last year from each town. Warren’s allocation is \$943, Waitsfield’s allocation is \$923 and Fayston’s allocation is \$588. Green Mountain Transit provides medical transports which includes rides to local health care facilities for regular medical services. They also travel to larger medical facilities such as CVH, Fletcher Allen, Dartmouth and others. They transport seniors to the senior center meal sites and adult day programs as well as weekly shopping trips. In the winter months there is the seasonal Mad Bus and commuter service. This service is intended to support the seasonal employee commuter needs as well as providing east connections to free Mad Bus Service which allows for access to key ski locations. They not only provide the big commuter bus, but they have a list of volunteers that drives and shuttles people to facilities and these volunteers receive .50 cents a mile. They also service Franklin and Grand Isle Counties as well. With the requests for funding through the valley towns, it helps to assist GMTA in meeting match requirements to draw federal and state funds that support the operations and capital needs of the agency. With the local funds they receive, GMTA is able to draw 80% state and federal funds as well. Mr. Hosford inquired about the volunteers drivers. Ms. Birkett explained that they are required to go through background checks, license checks and have to carry a certain amount of insurance.

Mad River Valley Planning District – Joshua Schwartz - The Mad River Planning District is requesting the same allocation of \$21,010 from the Valley towns as last year. The Planning District has helped with various grants such as the energy efficiency and conservation block grants received by the valley towns in the amount of \$304,107.45 and other grants. The Planning District continues to hold the Path as one of its top priorities. The MRVPD maintains a database and develops an annual data report and has established a new partnership though the UVM Service Learning Class entitled Local Community Initiatives. The Planning District continues to work with LocalVolts to explore Valley-wide energy consumption and renewable energy projects including the exploration of a small-scale biomass project in Waitsfield. Mr. Parker inquired on what the Valley Consumption was. Mr. Schwartz commented that The Valley consumption is 66 megawatts. In keeping along with the energy issue, MRVPD will be presenting at a Valley-wide energy forum on 12/7 to explore MRV energy consumption and renewable energy sighting. The Planning District also hosted a Mad River Valley Trails Summit designed to enhance networking and connections between MRV trail organizations. They also are participating on the Waitsfield Planning Commission’s Decentralized Wastewater Subcommittee and assisted in obtaining a grant to fund the survey portion of this work. Mr. Cunningham inquired what upcoming issues you see. Mr. Schwartz commented that Waitsfield’s infrastructure projects such as water, sidewalk and wastewater. He also commented that he is looking to enhance and find more funding for agricultural activities. Mr. Ackland inquired shouldn’t the Planning District be looking at energy renewable plans Valley wide? Mr. Schwartz commented that it has been working with various energy groups to focus together and formulate a Valley wide plan.

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The Valley Selectboards of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren thanked all the organizations for their time and commitments. The Valley Selectboards also thanked Joshua Schwartz of the Mad River Valley Planning District for hosting the summit.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Jones, Warren Town Administrator

Three handwritten signatures in black ink, stacked vertically. The top signature is the most fluid and cursive. The middle signature is more angular and blocky. The bottom signature is the most legible, appearing to read 'Cindi Jones'.