

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
PO BOX 356
MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471
802-326-4719

<http://www.montgomeryvt.us>

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2026

The meeting was held at the Public Safety Building (PSB) and was called to order by Patrick Calecas at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Marielle Ambroch, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Cliff Loos, Matt Paggi, Kip Potter

Absent: Lynn Locher, Charles Snedcor, James Wall

Visitors: Derek Saborowski (*Mowing Plan for Jewett Town Land was discussed first at this meeting – see below – so that Derek would not have to stay for the entire meeting.)

Additions/Changes to Agenda: MCC Board membership

Approval of Minutes 09/02/26: Marielle made a motion to approve the minutes; Cliff seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the 09/02/26 minutes. Motion passed.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report: No update

Events/Projects:

Recent:

- Farmer's Market – 9/19/26 – Went well. Patrick, Kip, Lynn, and Marielle were present at the MCC booth.
- UVM Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP) site visits Town Forest (TF) and Jewett Town Land (JTL)– 9/22/26 – Kip attended both, reported that they went well, and that most likely, additional archaeological work will not be needed at the TF.
- Town Forest visit with Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC) Woodlots group on 9/26/22 – Those MCC members who attended reported that it was an interesting visit.

Planned:

- Audubon visit to TF and maybe JTL - No update

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:

Jewett Town Land (JTL)

- Vermont River Conservancy Project – No update
- L-T Management Plan – No update
- *Mowing Plan, Status/Care of Trees Update – Derek has been doing the mowing, etc. and provided a report of the status as follows: Fall mowing has been completed and it went well. He gave an overview of changes in plants/foliage since spring until now and thinks that things are set up well for the spring of 2027. He recommended cutting a little later in the spring, and as early as possible in the fall, depending on appropriate timing for bird nesting and other wildlife habitat considerations. He provided other recommendations re: the knotweed situation, too. There was

additional discussion re: knotweed, including the input received from forester Addison Kamarek, who had recently visited the JTL. She will provide a proposal for knotweed management measures as well. In addition, Derek provided helpful suggestions re: planning for future planting of trees to allow for more efficient mowing in addition to supporting the health of the trees. All agreed that his ideas are very useful. There was also discussion about the possibility of obtaining satellite imagery of the orchard and/or drone images.

- Community Tree Fund Grant – We have until the end of October 2026 to plant the trees on the JTL and utilize the \$600 grant. There was discussion/confirmation re: plans for the purchase of the trees and other needed materials, and a date for the planting was set for Sunday, 10/18/26 at 10:00 a.m. Matt made a motion to authorize spending up to \$250.00 for tree planting supplies (such as stakes and tree protection); Cliff seconded. All present voted in favor. The motion passed.
- Flood Resilience Project – Kip reported that the SLR engineering firm was recently at the JTL digging holes related to wetland delineation, and that they would soon have their plan ready for presentation. Joan agreed to check with Mel Auffredou at Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) re: next steps in the process, including the proposed procedure for sharing the project plan and discussion with the community/MCC/Selectboard, etc.

Town Forest

- UMATR Grant – bridge design update – Matt reported that he has been in contact with the engineer and that the design is expected very soon.
- RTP Grant update – No grant-related work can be done until the bridge design and the ARA have been submitted to VT Forest Parks and Recreation (FPR), and the ARA has been approved. There was discussion about possible contractors for the bridge work, too.
- Forest Roads Assessment – No update
- Bird Habitat Work on Town Forest – Completed

Replacement Tree for MES Graduating Class – Tabled until Spring 2027

Drawing of Winning Raffle Ticket – This will be done on 10/18/26

Membership on MCC Board – There was discussion about when terms expire for existing member(s) as well as about potential additional members.

Cliff made a motion, seconded by Kip, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth.