

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
PO BOX 356
MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471
802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:35 p.m. at the Public Safety Building (PSB) conference room. Attendance: Joan Hildreth, Monica Hill, Parma Jewett, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock, Misty McCartney. Visitor(s): Joe Sherman (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None

Minutes from September 4, 2019 – Sue made a motion to approve the September 4th minutes, seconded by Parma. Motion passed unanimously; minutes approved.

Welcoming of Visitor(s) – Joe Sherman arrived at 6:05 and was welcomed. He expressed interest in/concerns related to the streambank stability topic on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report – Sue reported that the balance as of 10/2/19 was \$8,770.34. Of that, \$2,555.00 was membership dues. The MCC netted \$135.50 from the mums sale in September: Parma made a motion, seconded by Joan, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously; Treasurer's Report approved.

Planned MCC Events:

- **“The Forest Duff” with Kurt Valenta of EXORDIUM – Saturday, 10/5 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the PSB** – Plans are all set. Kurt will bring invoice to event. Sue will have MCC's plates and napkins. Parma will have donuts and coffee available at 10:00, and will make sandwiches for lunch. There will also be chips, cookies, water, and paper bags available to go with the lunch.
- **Library Collaboration** – Matt distributed a list of conservation related books for everyone to review and suggested that the library subcommittee should meet with Marlene, the librarian, to go over it. All agreed. Tabled discussion re: the Enosburg Library's Discovery backpacks program because Misty planned to report on this but was not at the meeting. Once that information is available, the library subcommittee will need to connect with Ali Jackson and Journey re: the backpacks. The committee will need to work with Marlene re: the backpacks as well as the bulletin board display planned for April of 2020.
- **Tree Sale** – Carissa will coordinate with Jeannie of Franklin County Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) re: details. Event and details will be announced at the Town Meeting in March of 2020 also.
- **“What's Your Watermark?” Film & Panel Discussion** – All agreed that this film should be shown in conjunction with a panel discussion re: water issues. Potential co-sponsors of the event were discussed and it was agreed that Joan would contact the following to inquire about their interest: Richford Conservation Commission (RCC), Enosburg Conservation Commission (ECC), Wild and Scenic (W&S), Missisquoi River Basin Association

(MRBA). A date in April (maybe 1, 8, or 15) of 2020 will be proposed. Members of the MCC will stay in touch via e-mail during the winter hiatus from meetings re: proposed participants in the panel discussion. All agreed this event would help kick off the 2020 theme of water issues for the MCC.

- **2021 MCC Calendar** – Announcement about this, and the request for photo submissions, will be made at the Town Meeting in March of 2020

Proposed MCC Events/Projects:

- **Legacy Planning Event** – Tabled - Charlie was not at meeting.
- **Owl Presentation with Kurt Valenta** – Sue reported that Kurt has a new owl program. All agreed that it sounded interesting, and that May or June of 2020 would be a good time for it. Sue will check with Kurt re: cost and availability.

Promote:

- **Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC) Annual Gathering – Thursday, 10/17/19, 6-9 p.m. at the Grange** – Information about this has been shared on the MCC's Facebook page, and a reminder will be posted. Carissa will send out an e-mail about it to everyone on the MCC listserv.

Other Business/Discussion:

- **Library Coordination: Building Bright Futures** – Journey was unable to attend to discuss. Tabled.
- **VAST Trail Project on the Trout River** – Monica reported that there is interest on the part of VAST to work on this project. She is awaiting several return calls.
- **Signs for Town Forest** – Tabled. Charlie was not at meeting.
- **Returned Surveys** – Carissa reported that one more had been returned. She plans to compile results over the winter during the hiatus from MCC meetings and will present them in the Spring of 2020.
- **Electronic Payment for Donations to MCC** – Tabled. Charlie was not at meeting.
- **Streambank Stability Project** – Joe Sherman visited the meeting to express his concern about streambank stability on Black Falls Brook and to inquire about possible ways to address this. Carissa took his contact information and she will inquire about assessment of the area by a hydrologist and get back to Joe. Carissa reported on the status of the project at the confluence of West Hill Brook and the Trout River. Carissa will be meeting at that site in mid-October with DEC hydrologist Staci Pomeroy and Lindsey Wight of W&S in order to determine what, if anything, can be done to improve that situation. It was agreed that a workshop on streambank stability would be very helpful in the future and will be revisited.
- **E-mail account for MCC** – Carissa raised the idea of the MCC having its own e-mail account. After discussion, Joan moved that Carissa open a Gmail account for the MCC, Sue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Joan made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth