

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:32 p.m. via Zoom. Attendance: Susan Baker, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein Absent: Charlie Hancock, Parma Jewett, John Kuryloski, Sue Wilson Visitor(s): Amanda Holland of Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None

Minutes from October 7, 2020 – Matt made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan. Motion passed unanimously; October 7, 2020 minutes approved.

Welcome Visitor – Amanda Holland – Overview of Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Grant and Water Resources Issues– Amanda shared information re: the grant process, expectations, and (if awarded the grant) implementation and time frame(s). Notification re: approval (or not) of the application is expected in December of 2020. If approved, a consultant would be hired to gather relevant data. NRPC would manage the grant and the consultant. There was discussion about the importance of involving the community by sharing information about the NRI, obtaining input, and sharing and utilizing results/recommendations. Ideas re: various ways to foster community involvement were discussed. If the grant is awarded, work would most likely begin around March of 2021. Amanda discussed water resources issues and ways of approaching this. She talked about the importance of determining what kinds of assessments had already been done (e.g. MRBA water quality monitoring, the Nature Conservancy’s study on aquatic organisms passages) and the value of obtaining input from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Again, community involvement is essential. All agreed that it would be helpful to have Amanda come back to another MCC meeting.

Treasurer’s Report – Not available for this meeting.

Planned Events/Projects:

- **Town Forest Improvements/Coordination with Adjoining Landowners** – Matt provided an update, and he will ask Charlie to send everyone on the MCC the old Forest Management Plan (FMP). Matt reported that Sue and Parma have worked on researching the history of the property and getting info re: abutting property owners. Matt obtained a copy of the deed and, although he said that it is somewhat confusing, it does provide useful info as well as direction for further clarification. A title search will most likely be needed.
- **MCC Calendars** -The order deadline is 11/15. Joan has posted the info on the MCC’s Facebook page and just posted a reminder this week, and will post a final one next week. No info was available re: the number of sales since the October MCC meeting.

- **Riparian Planting Workshop**– Carissa reported that the landowner is interested in hosting this in the spring of 2021, most likely the last weekend of April or the first weekend of May.

Discussion:

- **Water Quality Improvements Along the Trout River Trail** – Joan spoke with a member of the Covered Bridges VAST club, and they are interested in being kept informed and included. Joan also gathered the contact info for landowners along the section of the Trout where the trail is, and Carissa has begun work on a draft of a letter to send to them. Joan will contact Lindsey Wight from Wild and Scenic for her feedback/ideas about the letter, community input, other resources, etc.
- **Conservation District Update** – Carissa reported that Jeannie Bartlett will be leaving her position there and is seeking a replacement for her role in the annual spring tree sale. All agreed that it would be great to continue to do the tree sale. The Conservation District will be developing appropriate procedures in consideration of the pandemic.

Tabled Until 2021:

- **Library Collaboration**
- **Bat Boxes**
- **Signs for Swimming Holes**
- **Discovery Backpacks**

Other:

- **MCC Meeting Schedule** – Historically, the MCC has not met in December, January and February. It was agreed to continue with the practice of no scheduled meetings in December and January. However, members will plan to stay in contact in the interim as needed via e-mails. If it is found that a meeting is necessary sometime in January (due to being approved for the grant, for instance) one will be scheduled.

Matt made a motion, seconded by Susan, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth