

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
PO BOX 356
MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471
802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building (PSB) conference room. Attendance: Charlie Hancock, Joan Hildreth, Monica Hill, Parma Jewett, Misty McCartney, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: None. Visitor: Susan Baker (Note: The MCC was not expected to meet again until March of 2020, but held this additional meeting due to issues which could not wait until March.)

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Sue suggested adding discussions re: bylaws and the promotional matchbook-like candies which Parma proposed. Joan suggested discussing all proposed co-sponsored (with Richford CC) Winter and Spring of 2020 events.

Minutes from October 2, 2019 – Parma made a motion to approve the October 2nd minutes; seconded by Matt. Charlie and Misty abstained from voting due to not having been at the meeting. Everyone else voted in favor. Motion passed; minutes approved.

Welcoming of Visitor/Proposed New Member – Susan Baker was welcomed and she expressed her interest in joining the MCC. Sue moved that Susan's name be forwarded to the Select Board, requesting that she be included as a member of the MCC. Misty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Sue stated that there was no report available for this meeting.

Proposed MCC/Richford Conservation Commission (RCC) Co-Sponsored Events:

- **Winter Tracking Event** – The RCC invited the MCC to co-sponsor this. Possible tracker presenters to be contacted include Travis Worthington or Jeff Parsons. The RCC had suggested 2/8 or 2/15 of 2020 as possible dates. After discussion, the MCC recommended 2/8 due to the following weekend being a holiday one. The MCC will also propose to the RCC the idea of holding the event at a property in Montgomery which has a Keeping Track transect. Charlie moved that the MCC authorize up to a total of \$250.00 to cover expenses for the tracking workshop as well as a snowshoe outing co-sponsored with the RCC if that ends up being held separately from the tracking workshop. Sue seconded; motion passed unanimously. Joan will follow-up with the RCC re: details
- **“What’s Your Watermark?” Film & Panel Discussion** – The RCC is interested in co-sponsoring this. They prefer April 8, 2020 as the date and this will be targeted. The Grange will be reserved by Charlie for that date as well as back-up dates of 4/1 & 4/15/20 until details are confirmed. Joan will get back to the RCC re: this. Members of the MCC will stay in touch via e-mail during the winter hiatus from meetings re: proposed participants/plans.
- **Woodcock Evening, Including Potluck** - Late April/Early May 2020. The RCC plans to have this at a property in Richford which has excellent

woodcock habitat. Bridget Butler will be the presenter. Joan moved that the MCC authorize \$125.00 to cover ½ of the total cost of \$250.00 for the event. (RCC to pay other ½.) Charlie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Bird Watching on the Rail Trail** – May 24, 2020 – The RCC invited the MCC to co-sponsor this event as well, led by Bridget Butler, and all were in favor of the idea. The total cost (to be split 50:50 between the two CCs) is expected to be \$250.00. Monica moved that the MCC authorize \$125.00 to cover ½ of the total cost of the event. Sue seconded; passed unanimously.
- **Owl Presentation with Kurt Valenta** – Sue reported that the cost would be \$155.00, plus \$15.78 for mileage. The idea of co-sponsoring this event with RCC was discussed and all agreed that Joan would invite the RCC to do so. A target of sometime in June of 2020 was proposed. Sue moved that the MCC authorize up to \$175.00 to cover the cost. Parma seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Proposed MCC Events/Projects:

- **Library Collaboration** – Misty reported that she has looked into the backpacks being utilized in Enosburg as part of the Discovery Program. She is collaborating with Brenda at the Enosburg Library re: this.
- **Promotional Matchbook-Like Covers with Candy** – Parma showed everyone samples of the items she had put together and all agreed that they provide a fun, positive way to promote the MCC. The covers have the MCC's name as well as various animals' paw prints, and there is a candy inside each one. The idea of having these available at events as well as locations around town was discussed. Parma has volunteered to spearhead the project. Monica moved that the MCC authorize up to \$50.00 to cover Parma's expenses for the project. Misty seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business/Discussion:

- **Streambank Stability Project** – Carissa reported on the outcome of her October meeting with the DEC hydrologist and Lindsey Wight from W&S re: the project at the confluence of West Hill Brook and the Trout River. In summary, she said that no practices were recommended. She is exploring the idea of having a riparian restoration workshop at another site.
- **McGregor Bequest** – The estate has been settled and the funds from the bequest will be transferred to the MCC. Charlie is involved with the process.
- **Bylaws** – Sue suggested that they need to be reviewed, and necessary changes should be recommended and made. After discussion, it was agreed that a subcommittee of Sue, Charlie and Carissa should be formed. They would meet over the winter and present proposed changes at the next MCC meeting, in March 2020. Charlie moved that the subcommittee be formed, meet and present at the March meeting. Matt seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- **Budget** – Sue will work on the budget, requesting \$750.00 from the Town.

Charlie made a motion, seconded by Sue, to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth