

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY  
PO BOX 356  
MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471  
802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:33 p.m. via Zoom due to the current Covid-19 situation. Attendance: Susan Baker, Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock, Misty McCartney.

Visitor(s): Lynn Locher. Lynn was welcomed.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Sue W. – information about signs; Carissa – Earth Day. Minutes from March 4, 2020 – Matt made a motion to approve the March 4th minutes, seconded by Susan B. Sue W. abstained from the vote due to her absence from the March meeting. All others voted in favor, and the motion passed; minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – No update available. Total on 3/4/20 was \$3,783.12. Sue W. moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Susan B. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Planned Events:** (Given the Covid-19 situation, all planning is tentative and fluid.)

- **“What’s Your Watermark?” Film & Panel Discussion co-sponsored by the MCC and RCC – April 8<sup>th</sup> date has been cancelled.** There was discussion re: rescheduling. All agreed to tentative time(s) in the fall. Sept. 16 or 23, with an alternative of Oct.28 were proposed. Joan will contact the RCC for their input about this idea. The panelists identified (Nancy Patch, Paul Stanley and John Little) will all be contacted after that. No promotion will be done for now.
- **Woodcock Evening with Bridget Butler – co-sponsored by the MCC and RCC in Richford on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** -This event has been cancelled.
- **Tree Sale - Spring 2020** – Logistics are still being figured out, but the plan is to go forward with the sale, with public health safety measures put in place. Carissa is coordinating the event, and Matt will help with the delivery of trees.
- **Green Up Day (GUD)** – This has been postponed from May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be discussed further at the MCC's May meeting.
- **Bird Watching on the Rail Trail with Bridget Butler – May 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. co-sponsored by the MCC and RCC. – Unclear whether or not this will occur.** To be discussed at the MCC's May meeting.

**Proposed MCC Events/Projects:**

- **Earth Day Celebration – April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day** and all agreed that the MCC would like to commemorate this event in some way while following social distancing. Carissa proposed that each MCC member come up with a paragraph about what Earth Day means to him/her and/or some resource(s) to share with the community in light of the current Covid-19 situation. Carissa would then compile the input and send it out on

the listserv. This would be in a similar spirit to the very thoughtful and helpful e-mail that the RCC recently distributed.

- **Owl Presentation with Kurt Valenta – TBD** – Sue W. will contact Kurt to discuss. Perhaps a date in October or November will be considered.
- **Bat Awareness/Bat Box Sale or Raffle – TBD** – Table until next meeting.
- **Riparian Restoration Workshop – TBD** - Carissa plans to speak with a land owner about the idea of a presentation in the future on “lessons learned.”
- **MCC 2021 Calendar** – Parma has received about 8 to 10 submissions, but needs more photos of fall and summer. Lynn has some photos which she’ll submit. Parma will send Joan the submission request info to be posted on the MCC’s Facebook page. Photos should be selected for the calendar and be ready for publishing by October.
- **Library Collaboration, Discovery Backpacks, Conservation Corner, Bulletin Board** – Misty was working on the backpack information, but could not attend this meeting. Matt has a book list started and is re-distributing it to other MCC members for review and any additions. Misty and Carissa were collaborating on the bulletin board project, but this is on hold.
- **Promotional Matchbook-Like Covers with Candy** – On hold. Depending on the Covid-19 situation, Parma suggested having these available at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. She will also work on a proposal for the MCC’s involvement at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July which can be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Potential projects – mason bee, ladybug, bluebird box, praying mantis -**  
There was discussion of ideas. On hold for now due to current situation.

#### **Other Business/Discussion:**

- **Town Forest & Other Signs** - Charlie has been working on town forest signs but was not able to be at the meeting. Sue W. will send info to everyone on the MCC re: the signs Richford is using. Joan will check with MRBA/Wild and Scenic to find out what they are doing re: signs. All agreed that signs about “no dumping” and/or “no littering” should be considered.
- **McGregor Bequest/Memorial** – There is nothing new re: the receipt of the bequest. Sue W. has done research re: possible memorial markers to be installed next to the bench and presented two options. After discussion, Sue W. mad a motion that the marker costing \$270.62 be purchased, along with a lilac bush to be planted near the bench at a cost for the bush of up to \$100.00. Parma seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Bylaws** – There was some discussion of the proposed revisions. It was agreed to vote at the next meeting.
- **Membership** – Re: MCC itself – Lynn L. expressed her interest in joining, and everyone was appreciative. This will be formally brought before the Selectboard. It was agreed to hold off on sending out the membership drive letters to the community, and to further discuss at the May meeting.
- **Bringing the Outdoors Indoors with Montgomery Elementary School (MES)**– On hold for now due to current situation.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Joan, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Passed unanimously.  
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth