

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Sue Wilson at 5:05 p.m. at the Public Safety Building (PSB) conference room. Attendance: Monica Hill, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson, and Joan Hildreth. (Joan had to leave the meeting early at 5:55 p.m.) Absent: Misty McCartney, Charlie Hancock. Visitor(s): Mary Sisock from Vermont Woodlands Association

Presentation by Mary Sisock - The meeting began with Mary's presentation re: legacy planning – "Promoting Long Term Ownership" (of forest land). Following the presentation, there was discussion with Mary re: the role(s) the MCC could play in encouraging legacy planning by forest land owners. She recommended that the MCC could identify parcels at risk of fragmentation and let the landowners know about the resources available for legacy planning. There was also discussion about the idea of having a presentation for landowners by Mary, and involving other local CCs, Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC), the county forester, Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and any other relevant stakeholders. All agreed that this was a great idea and there would be further planning in terms of a date (maybe in the fall) and focus. (Please note: At this point in the meeting, Joan had to leave and Sue took over taking the minutes.)

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None

Minutes from October 3, 2018 and November 7, 2018 – Could not be approved due to lack of a quorum from each meeting. Therefore, review of both the October and November minutes was tabled until the next meeting on May 1, 2019.

Minutes from March 6, 2019 - Carissa made a motion, seconded by Matt, to approve the March 6th minutes. Passed unanimously with 4 votes.

Treasurer's Report: Sue reported a current balance of \$8,945. Monica made a motion, seconded by Carissa, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Passed unanimously - 4 votes.

Planned and Proposed Events/Fundraisers:

Planned MCC events:

- **Kurt Valenta of EXORDIUM – "Bobcat and Lynx"- Wednesday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the PSB.** Carissa made a motion, seconded by Monica, that the MCC should have its May 1st meeting at 5:30 at the PSB, and the presentation would occur at 6:30, immediately after the meeting. Passed unanimously with 4 votes.
- **VINS – Thursday, 5/2 "Raptor Encounter" at MES** - Program to start at 1:00 - Cost \$645

- **Tree Sale (which helps to fund Franklin County VACD [Vermont Association of Conservation Districts])** – Occurring, with pickup in Montgomery available May 4th. Carissa will provide additional information re: getting the trees from St. Albans to Montgomery.
- **“Reptile Rendezvous” at VINS – Thursday, 9/19 MES** – Cost \$645

Proposed MCC Events:

- **Presentation about Coyotes** – Joan has been in contact with Chris Schadler of Project Coyote, and Chris is interested in doing a presentation in Montgomery. Joan will be asked to propose to Chris the date of Wednesday, June 5th at 6:30 p.m., and to also ask her if she would like to spend the night in Montgomery following the presentation. If that date works, our monthly meeting would start at 5:30, with the presentation at the Grange Hall beginning at 6:30, immediately after the meeting. We would also ask Phineas Swann about booking a room for the night for the speaker if she would like to stay over. Once the date is confirmed, the Grange will need to be booked and a reservation for the inn will be made. Carissa made a motion, seconded by Sue, to ask the Richford Conservation Commission (RCC) if they would like to co-sponsor the entire cost of this presentation. Passed unanimously.
- **Kurt Valenta of EXORDIUM – “The Forest Duff”** This would be held outdoors on either a Saturday or a Sunday, possibly at the Town Forest on West Hill, sometime in June.
- **Rail Trail Bird Walk – Saturday 5/25** – The RCC had inquired about the MCC’s interest in co-sponsoring with them this upcoming event they have planned. The Board voted unanimously to NOT do so.

OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION -

- Payment for Owl Prowl Event – Carissa made a motion, seconded by Monica, to pay for ½ of the cost of the “Owl Prowl” done by Bridget Butler. Passed unanimously.
- Nominations for New Board – Charlie is stepping down as Chairperson. Sue made a motion, seconded by Monica, to have Carissa as our new Chairperson. Sue made a motion, seconded by Matt, to have Joan as our Secretary. Carissa made a motion, seconded by Monica to have Sue as our Treasurer. All nominations passed unanimously.

Carissa made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth