

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

The meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by Joan Hildreth at 5:32 p.m. (Carissa was having technical difficulties with Zoom at first, but these were soon resolved.)

Attendance: Susan Baker, Charlie Hancock, Joan Hildreth, Misty McCartney, Parma Jewett, Lynn Locher (arrived 6:25 p.m.), Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: None Visitor(s): None.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Minutes from April 1, 2020 – Sue made a motion to approve the April 1st minutes, seconded by Parma. Charlie and Misty abstained from the vote due to their absence from the April meeting. All others voted in favor, and the motion passed; minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Balance as of May 5th, 2020 was \$73,997.04. This includes the McGregor bequest. Joan moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Parma seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- **“What’s Your Watermark?” Film & Panel Discussion co-sponsored by the MCC and RCC – Tentatively - Sept. 16 or 23, or Oct. 28.** RCC is fine with the tentative dates. Carissa reported that she has heard back from 2 of the panelists (Nancy P. and Paul S.). They are fine with those potential dates. She is still waiting to hear from the 3rd (John L.).
- **Green Up Day (GUD) – Saturday, May 30th** – Misty is coordinating this and reported on the details. She is putting together supplies and instructions consistent with social distancing guidelines. She also has posters and will get more plastic gloves. Sue W. and Parma offered to donate some gloves as well. Charlie will work on the bagged trash pickup details. There was discussion and agreement about having a contest for photos depicting the most interesting item found and/or showing piles of trash gathered on GUD. Prizes will be T-shirts. Misty ordered 3 adult and 3 children’s sizes.
- **Bird Watching on the Rail Trail with Bridget Butler – May 24th at 8:00 a.m. co-sponsored by the MCC and RCC. – Cancelled.** The MCC contributed the \$125.00 which had been approved for this event to the “Nature Isn’t Cancelled” on-line program re: birds which Bridget Butler is offering.
- **Owl Presentation with Kurt Valenta, Wed., Oct. 7th, 6:30 p.m. at the PSB** Sue W. reported that the cost would be \$165.00 plus mileage. Misty made a motion to approve the cost. Parma seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There was discussion about co-sponsoring the event with RCC. Joan will check with them. If they would like to, the cost could be split 50:50.

Proposed MCC Events/Projects:

- **Bat Awareness/Bat Box Sale or Raffle** – There was discussion about asking Lindsey Wight if she would consider doing an on-line presentation about bats, and to have the bat box raffle in conjunction with that. Joan will contact Annette at RCC to discuss.
- **MCC 2021 Calendar** – Parma reported that submissions are coming in.
- **4th of July Parade Presence for MCC** – Parade might be cancelled. Decision re: this is expected on 5/18.
- **Promotional Matchbook-Like Covers with Candy** – Tabled until June meeting because the idea would have been to hand them out at the parade.
- **Library Collaboration, Discovery Backpacks, Conservation Corner, Bulletin Board** – Misty has been working on the backpack project, including reaching out to the Enosburg librarian who has relevant info. Misty will also share with others on the MCC, via e-mail, info re: backpacks which are available on-line. Matt has the book list which has been developed, and reported having received additional recommendations. He will send the list to the librarian for her feedback. The conservation corner and bulletin board projects remain on hold due to the continued closure of the library at this time.
- **Bringing the Outdoors Indoors with Montgomery Elementary School (MES)** – There was discussion about this idea as well as possible topics. Topic ideas raised included: plant i.d., a plant i.d. game, wildlife, gardening. Carissa plans to contact Sandy Alexander, MES principal to discuss.
- **Potential projects – mason bee box, ladybugs, bluebird box, praying mantis** - Tabled until the June meeting due to the uncertain status of this summer's Day Camp at this time.

Other Business/Discussion:

- **Town Forest & Other Signs** - Charlie reported that having JD make them for the Town Forest (TF) is possible. There was also discussion about the kinds of signs Richford uses for their TF. Having signs which are consistent with other signs in Montgomery, and cost differences were discussed. Charlie will explore the cost of small decal-like signs (similar style to other town signs), with the idea of possibly adding them to the less expensive option. Everyone liked the idea of placing W&S signs in additional locations. Lindsey at W&S offered the signs as well as help with installation. Misty will initiate an e-mail chain within the MCC re: suggested locations for those signs.
- **McGregor Memorial** – Sue ordered the lilac and asked for a quote re: delivery and planting. The grass marker should be ready in 4 weeks.
- **Bylaws** – Tabled until June meeting.
- **Membership** – Lynn Locher's membership on the MCC was approved by the Selectboard. After discussion, it was agreed to not have a membership drive this year due to the effects of the Covid-19 situation. Postponed until 2021.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth