

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

The meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:49 p.m. Attendance: Susan Baker, Joan Hildreth, Misty McCartney, Parma Jewett, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock. Visitor(s): None.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Mums sale; proposed bylaws additions/clarification.

Minutes from May 6, 2020 – Sue W. made a motion to approve the May 6th minutes, seconded by Parma. The motion passed unanimously; minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – No Treasurer's Report available.

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. 28th.** Carissa has heard back from all of the panelists (Nancy P., Paul S, John L.) and they are fine with those dates. Plan to discuss specific date further at July meeting.
- **Owl Presentation with Kurt Valenta, Wed., Oct. 7th, 6:30 p.m., co-sponsored by the MCC and RCC.** It was decided to have this at the **Grange** instead of the PSB to allow for easier social distancing. RCC has agreed to co-sponsor and the cost will be split 50:50.

Proposed MCC Events/Projects:

- **Bat Awareness/Bat Box Sale or Raffle** – The RCC is interested in co-sponsoring a bat presentation by Lindsey Wight if it would work for her. The idea of a combination in-person/Zoom presentation was raised, with a tentative date of early August. Joan will be in contact with RCC and Lindsey.
- **MCC 2021 Calendar** – Parma reported that submissions continue to come in.
- **Library Collaboration, Discovery Backpacks, Conservation Corner, Bulletin Board** – Matt sent the book list which was compiled to Marlene at the library, and she is checking on which books they already have and which are needed. Misty continues to work on the backpack project, including obtaining info from the Enosburg librarian. Misty will get estimates of the cost of the backpacks and will start pricing items to include. Other MCC members can price items to include as well. Carissa will check with both the State and Federal Fish & Wildlife Depts. re: items/materials they have available which could be included.
- **Montgomery Elementary School (MES) Collaboration** – Carissa raised the idea of working with the school on an educational project utilizing the trail between the school and the Rec. Center. The MCC could assist with input re: forest management practices and signage. Everyone supports the idea.
- **MES Gift for Graduating 8th Graders** – After discussion, Sue W. made a motion that, with the permission of the MES principal, the MCC purchase and

plant an apple tree at the MES, and include an expandable trunk plaque in honor of the class of 2020. The cost of the tree and plaque should not exceed \$100.00. Susan B seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Carissa plans to contact Sandy Alexander, MES principal, re: this.

- **Potential projects – mason bee box, ladybugs, bluebird box, praying mantis** - Tabled until Spring of 2021 due to cancellation of 2020 Day Camp.

Other Business/Discussion:

- **Tree Sale Update – May 2nd** – This went very well. Matt, Barb P. and Carissa made the deliveries.
- **Green Up Day (GUD) – Saturday, May 30th** – Misty reported that this was a success. There was a good turnout and the photo contest is underway.
- **McGregor Memorial** – Sue reported that the lilac will be delivered next week. As soon as she knows the date, planting by MCC will be coordinated. Parma has compost for it. The grass marker should be ready soon as well.
- **Town Forest & Other Signs – Town Forest** The quotes by JD were reviewed. It was agreed that the proposed signs look great, but there was discussion re: cost, particularly given concerns about potential vandalism/theft in a remote location. Carissa will ask Charlie about obtaining a quote for a smaller version which could be placed below the town welcome sign at the corner of West Hill and 118. Further discussion tabled until the July meeting.
- **Wild and Scenic Signs** – Misty had compiled and shared a list of proposed locations for the signs. Everyone agreed with the list, and a few more were added. The list includes: 3-holes; Creamery Bridge; Vincent’s Bridge; Avery Gore; Longley Bridge; Grey Rocks; Hectorville Bridge; Comstock Bridge; Hutchins Mills. Misty will contact Lindsey at W&S re: installation.
- **River Clean-Up** - Misty reported that this is planned for September.
- **Mums Sale Fundraiser** – Sue W. ordered 75 for sale this fall. Date(s)/location(s) TBD.
- **Bylaws** – There was discussion re: helpful questions which Matt raised about a couple of sections of the bylaws. All agreed that those needed to be addressed for further clarification, but that Charlie’s input will be needed. Misty also raised addressing climate change issues. Carissa will contact Charlie re: the questions raised and will follow-up with e-mails to everyone. Further discussion and vote tabled until the July meeting.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth