

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

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:42 p.m. at the Recreation Center Pavilion. Attendance: Susan Baker, Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock, Lynn Locher, Misty McCartney, Matt Paggi.

Visitor(s): None.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Minutes from June 3, 2020 – Sue W. made a motion to approve the June 3rd 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.)

- **Bat Awareness Presentation - Lindsey Wight/Barry Genzlinger/Bat Box Sale or Raffle – Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Grange AND via Zoom. Co-sponsored with RCC.** Joan will contact Lindsey and RCC to confirm. Idea of limiting in-person attendance to 25 or less due to Covid-19 and requiring pre-registration were discussed. Joan will also check with Lindsey for recommendations on potential bat box locations in town.
- **Mums Sale – Saturday, September 5th, 9 to noon. 2 locations – PSB and Pratt Hall.** Sue W. is ordering 75 mums and will arrange delivery.
- **“What’s Your Watermark?” Film & Panel Discussion co-sponsored by the MCC and RCC – Planning for Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 6:30 at the Grange.** Joan will discuss with RCC. Carissa will let panelists know date.
- **Owl Presentation with Kurt Valenta, Wed., Oct. 7th, 6:30 p.m. at the Grange, co-sponsored by the MCC and RCC.**

Proposed/Existing MCC Projects:

- **MCC 2021 Calendar** – Parma reported that there have not been any submissions recently. Joan will post a reminder for submissions on the MCC Facebook page.
- **Library Collaboration, Discovery Backpacks, Conservation Corner, Bulletin Board** – Matt could not attend this meeting but had sent word that the library already has 8 of the 30 books from the MCC's suggested list. Once Covid-related restrictions lift further a meeting with the Librarian will be set up to go over the book list and prioritize any purchases, as well as to discuss the conservation corner idea. Carissa has checked with Fish and Wildlife about available materials for children which could be included with backpacks, but found that only limited handouts are available. After discussion of various ideas, Joan agreed to gather and share information about resources including Lynn Levine tracking guides, Keeping Track cards, tracking bandanas, Audubon booklets, tree identification booklets.

- **Montgomery Elementary School (MES)/MCC Forest Trail Collaboration**
All agreed that this would be a very positive collaboration but will hold off on specific planning given uncertainty related to current pandemic situation.
- **MES Gift for Graduating 8th Graders** – The crabapple tree was planted in time for the 8th grade graduation. Sue W. reported that the plaque for the tree arrived and that it will be placed on it. She showed everyone the plaque. It states that the MCC planted the tree in honor of the Class of 2020 and it includes a Lucy Larcom quote: “He who plants a tree, plants a hope.”

Other Business/Discussion:

- **Mileage Reimbursement** – Parma moved that any MCC member be reimbursed at the federal mileage reimbursement rate, if requested, for mileage related to MCC business. Joan seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- **McGregor Bequest – Investment** – Sue W. raised the idea of exploring investment of the funds and there was discussion of the idea. Joan made a motion that Sue W. speak with the Town Treasurer, Erin, asking her to investigate rates for municipal deposit CDs of various term lengths in order to help inform a decision re: appropriate investment of the McGregor bequest. Parma seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- **Green Up Day (GUD) Maple Tree Planting** – Misty has information and could not be at this meeting. Tabled until next meeting.
- **McGregor Memorial** – Sue W. picked up the marker. Still awaiting notice of delivery time for the lilac. Both marker and lilac will be put in place at the same time.
- **Protection of MES Crabapple Tree (from deer, etc.)** – Matt offered fencing if need be. Carissa will check with Charlie about garlic repellent as an option as well. No evidence of “nibbling” on the tree yet.
- **Town Forest & Other Signs** – Town Forest - There was discussion re: concerns about potential abuse of the forest, including any signage. No decisions were made about signs. Carissa will send out an e-mail with points for further consideration and discussion. Wild and Scenic Signs – Misty has relevant information and was unable to be at this meeting. As such, tabled until next meeting.
- **Bylaws** – Proposed revisions had been shared with MCC members prior to the meeting. After discussion, Sue W. made a motion to accept the proposed bylaws as written. Susan B. seconded; motion passed unanimously. All MCC members will need to sign the bylaws. The plan is to have them available for signature at the town vote on July 7th.
- **McGregor Bequest Utilization** – Carissa asked that everyone consider ideas for appropriate and effective utilization of funds from the bequest. One idea is to move forward with the inventory of resources. Further discussion to occur at the next meeting.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth