

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:36 p.m. at the Public Safety Building (PSB) conference room. Attendance: Charlie Hancock, Joan Hildreth, Monica Hill, Parma Jewett, Misty McCartney, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: None. Visitor(s): Susan Baker, Marlene Hambleton, Lindsey Wight.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Add – river clean-up event. Carissa moved that this be added, Joan seconded, motion passed.

Minutes from June 5, 2019 – Misty made a motion to approve the June 5th minutes, seconded by Sue. Carissa and Parma abstained from vote due to not having been at that meeting. All other members voted in favor. Motion passed; minutes approved.

Welcoming of returning member/visitors Parma has rejoined the MCC and was welcomed back. Marlene, the Town of Montgomery's librarian, attended the meeting to discuss collaboration with the library, and Lindsey was there to discuss collaboration with the Upper Missisquoi & Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee (W&S). Susan was sitting in out of interest in the MCC.

Treasurer's Report – There is a balance of \$10,548.04. \$2,080 was received from the membership mailing. Charlie made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Misty seconded the motion, motion passed.

Surveys/Thank You Cards - 12 surveys were returned. Tabled further discussion re: reviewing results until next meeting. Sue showed everyone the thank you cards designed by Charlie. All agreed that they look great and Sue will send them out.

Planned MCC events:

- **Montgomery Day Camp outing – Thursday, July 18th at 9:30 a.m.** – Charlie will lead a nature walk in the woods with the campers and counselors at the Rec. Center. Other MCC members are welcome to join in. All set.
- **“Reptile Rendezvous” with VINS – Thursday, 9/19 MES, 1:00 p.m.**

Proposed MCC Events/Projects:

- **Kurt Valenta of EXORDIUM – “The Forest Duff”** Carissa will check with Kurt about his availability and possible dates (likely in the fall). Joan reported that the Richford Conservation Commission (RCC) expressed interested in co-sponsoring.
- **Legacy Planning Event** – Charlie will get back in touch with Mary Sisock. Further discussion at next meeting.
- **“Artifishal”** documentary film produced by Patagonia – Some members of the MCC, as well as Lindsey, were able to preview the film. Various impressions were discussed. Parma reported that there is another film re:

fisheries issues more specifically related to the east (filmed in the Connecticut River Valley of Northern New England) and she will see if she can locate the film for previewing, hopefully prior to the next meeting. Carissa moved that further discussion occur after that, Matt seconded, motion passed.

- **Library Coordination** – Marlene is very positive about collaborating with the MCC on promoting conservation. She proposed having a “conservation corner” in the library with conservation-related books, and she would be able to order additional books for the library which the MCC recommends. In addition, there could be a conservation month, promoted on the library’s bulletin board. It was agreed that April would be an appropriate month for that due to Earth Day’s occurrence then. Marlene suggested other ways of promotion as well, including utilizing social media. She also brought up Ali Jackson as a possible resource. Ali designs exhibits and curricula for children's science museums. One idea would be to see if she could help to develop a backpack-styled project for children. Everyone was very positive about the ideas discussed with Marlene, and a library subcommittee of Charlie, Joan, Matt and Misty was formed to work further on these ideas.

Other local upcoming events - sponsored by RCC:

- **Stargazing Night on August 3rd** – The MCC will help promote this event, including via Facebook posts and word of mouth.
- **Beekeeping presentation in August** – The MCC will also help promote this event.

OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION -

- McGregor Bequest/Bench Vote – Sue had shared bench options with other MCC members via e-mails with photos in advance of this meeting. After discussion, Carissa made a motion to purchase the “Faux Bois” bench in memory of Carol McGregor to be placed in the village green, the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00. Charlie seconded the motion, the motion passed. Charlie agreed to pick up the bench.
- Signs for Town Forest – Charlie will reconnect with Dan Malloy re: the signs.
- Electronic Payment of Donations to MCC – Charlie will talk to the Town Treasurer, Erin Kopacz about the feasibility of this.
- Improving Trail along the Trout River– Carissa shared her initial assessment of the concerns re: the trail and made preliminary recommendations for improvements. Lindsey reported that this project could potentially be eligible for funding from W&S. She also reviewed types of appropriate uses for W&S grant funding. An important first step for this proposed project will be to contact landowners along the trail. VAST might be helpful with this as it is an existing VAST trail. Monica and Parma will work on identifying landowners.
- MCC listserv - Carissa will work on this. Mailchimp or just using a list and then sending e-mails out with BCC’s were discussed as options.
- MCC duties/procedures – Various MCC members shared lists of duties/procedures for which they are responsible. **Carissa:** Develop agenda, post at both post offices, post at PSB and send to Zach for posting on the

Town's website. Shared responsibility for making flyers. **Sue:** The Monday prior to each MCC meeting, ask Town Treasurer for a print out for the Treasurer's Report. **Joan:** Take minutes at each meeting, submit them within five days of the meeting to Zach for posting on the Town's website and share them with MCC members for review again prior to the next meeting. Manage the MCC's Facebook page, including posting events there. Post events on Front Porch Forum and on the Town's website. **Charlie:** Shared responsibility for developing flyers for events.

- Better Roads Program - Charlie reported on the status of and focus of this, including the challenges of securing adequate staffing to do the work. Improvement of ditches and culverts are among the priorities.
- Walkability Assessment – Joan briefly shared information re: this. The Montgomery Thrives group has been involved in an effort to improve walkability (in terms of safety and ease) in town and had an expert do an evaluation and make recommendations at a meeting on 6/14/19.
- Stream Bank Stability Project - Confluence of West Hill Brook and Trout River - Carissa provided an overview of concerns. Lindsey said that there could be federal grant money available for streambank stabilization projects, and she suggested doing a streambank workshop.
- River Clean-Up September 7th – All agreed that the MCC would like to help W&S with the promotion of this event.

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Sue made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth