

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:31 p.m. at the Public Safety Building (PSB) conference room. Attendance: Joan Hildreth, Monica Hill, Misty McCartney, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock, Parma Jewett, Matt Paggi. Visitor(s): Susan Baker, Sadie Smith

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Add – review of MCC meeting schedule for the year. Minutes from July 8, 2019 – Sue made a motion to approve the July 8th minutes, seconded by Misty. Motion passed; minutes approved.

Welcoming of Visitors – Welcome back to Susan (who had also been at the July meeting). Welcome to Sadie. Sadie expressed an interest in supporting the efforts of the MCC and offered to help with MCC projects, including those related to habitat clean-up and managing invasives such as knotweed and poison parsnip. She offered to develop a proposal for managing invasives, and all agreed that would be very helpful.

Treasurer's Report – Sue reported that the current balance was unavailable, but that, to date, \$2,225.00 in membership dues had been received. Joan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Misty seconded the motion, motion passed.

Surveys- Sue reported that 6 additional surveys had been returned and given to Carissa. Carissa will develop a spreadsheet with results for discussion at a future meeting.

Planned MCC Events:

- **“Reptile Rendezvous” with VINS – Thursday, 9/19, MES, 1:00 p.m.**

Proposed MCC Events/Projects:

- **Kurt Valenta of EXORDIUM – “The Forest Duff”** Carissa spoke with Kurt, and the event is proposed for Saturday, Oct. 5th, 2019. Discussion at the meeting led to the idea of having the 2-part event at the PSB and at an abutting landowner's property if that is okay. This would include a power point presentation and a walk in the woods. Plans need to be confirmed with the landowner and Kurt. Sue moved that the MCC contract with Kurt for the 2-part event, Misty seconded and the motion passed.
- **Legacy Planning Event** – Tabled - Charlie unable to be at 8/7/19 meeting.
- **Film Viewing with Panel Discussion** - Carissa and Monica had identified some additional films for consideration. Carissa will send out an e-mail to everyone with links to the films. One is “Know Your Watermark” and another is re: invasive species. Further discussion at the next meeting.
- **Library Coordination** – Monica reported that Ali Jackson is interested in partnering with the MCC re: the backpack-styled project for children through the library. Misty thought that Wild and Scenic (W&S) might be interested as

well. Misty said that the Enosburg Conservation Commission (ECC) has a similar project. Carissa brought in some books which could go to the library, and Sadie offered to come up with a list of children's books re: conservation. The MCC, via the subcommittee, still needs to compile a list of recommended books. MCC members were encouraged to offer their suggestions for books.

Other Local Upcoming Events (which the MCC will help promote via Facebook posts, word of mouth, etc. Plus, Carissa is working on the MCC's e-mail list for this and other purposes):

- **MRBA – Bluegrass Against Blue Green Algae – Aug. 15th - Montgomery**
- **Annual Wild and Scenic (W&S) Gathering - August 18th at Big Falls**
- **Wild and Scenic River Clean-up – September 7th**

OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION -

- McGregor Bequest/Bench – Sue reported that the bench had arrived in town, and she shared the recommendations made for the secure installation of it.
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Workshop Opportunity for Local Communities – Carissa shared information re: this opportunity. The deadline for sign up is August 31, 2019. Monica moved that the MCC sign up for this, Misty seconded the motion, motion passed.
- Signs for Town Forest – Tabled until next meeting. (Charlie has been in contact with Dan Malloy re: this, but was unable to attend this meeting.)
- Electronic Payment of Donations to MCC – Tabled until next meeting.
- Permission for Improving Trail Along the Trout River– Monica reported on her efforts re: this. She developed a spread sheet with a list of landowners along the trail, and she wrote a draft of a letter to send to the landowners which she shared with the MCC members at the meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that Monica would show Lindsey Wight of W&S the draft of the letter, too, in order to elicit any input she might have. In addition, she will ask Lindsey about the availability of W&S funding for the project. Monica also agreed to be in contact with a VAST representative re: the proposal to improve the trail. The MCC authorized Monica to ask the Town Clerk for #10 envelopes and stamps for the mailing of the letters once they are ready.
- Stream Bank Stability Project - Confluence of West Hill Brook and Trout River - Carissa talked with Lindsey Wight and the landowner. She is arranging for a specialist to assess the streambank and to make recommendations. This would be followed by a workshop on implementation of the recommendations.
- Review of Meeting Schedule for MCC - All present agreed that there will continue to be no monthly MCC meetings scheduled during the colder/winter months (November, December, January and February).

Misty made a motion, seconded by Monica, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth