

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Attendance: Susan Baker, Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock, Misty McCartney. Visitor(s): None.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Minutes from July 1, 2020 – Sue W. made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan. Lynn and Matt abstained from voting due to not having been at the July meeting. The other five members in attendance voted to approve; motion passed.

Minutes from August 5, 2020 - Matt made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sue W. Parma abstained from voting due to not having been at the August meeting. The other six members in attendance voted to approve; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Sue W. reported that, as of 9/1/2020, the balance is \$88,002.02. Parma made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Susan. Motion passed unanimously.

Planned Events:

- **Mums/MCC Calendar Sale Fundraiser: Saturday, September 5th from 9:00 a.m. to noon in front of the Grange and in front of Pratt Hall.** Sue W. has ordered mums from Beaver Meadow and arranged for delivery to both locations. Calendars will be available for sale at both locations as well. Mums will be sold for \$7.50 each or 3 for \$21.00. Calendars for sale for \$15.00 each. Membership cards will be available for those who are interested. Lynn and Susan will be at the Grange and Sue W. and Parma will be at Pratt Hall. Joan will put the sandwich board up in front of the Grange by Friday, 9/4. Other details related to the sale were reviewed as well. All set.

Proposed/Existing MCC Projects:

- **Library Collaboration, Discovery Backpacks, Conservation Corner, Bulletin Board** – Tabled. Library still not open. Carissa plans to touch base with Misty re: the backpacks, though.
- **Montgomery Elementary School (MES)/MCC Forest Trail Collaboration** Carissa and Charlie met with the principal, Sandy Alexander, on 8/10 to discuss. Moving forward with this collaboration. The MES has an area picked out for an outdoor “classroom” along the nature trail. Charlie is looking into arrangements for taking down a potentially unsafe tree. A sitting area could also be set up there.
- **Kurt Valenta presentations at the MES** – The idea of sponsoring presentations by Kurt at the MES on a Tuesday and Thursday this fall was discussed, and all agreed that this would be great. Sue W. will talk with the

principal (Sandy Alexander) about it and, if Sandy agrees, then Sue will discuss with Kurt. Carissa made a motion that Sue W. work with Kurt re: scheduling and payment of up to \$250.00 total to cover the cost of both days of presentations, including mileage. Parma seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Other Business/Discussion:

- **McGregor Bequest – Investment – CD Rates** – Sue W. spoke with Erin, the Town Treasurer about CD rates and shared the results of their discussion. Sue W. moved to ask Erin to deposit \$75,000.00 into a 6-month CD. Carissa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Town Forest Visit** – Matt arranged with Charlie to have a visit/walk at the Town Forest on Wednesday, 9/16 at 5:00. All MCC members who are available and interested in joining them that day are welcome.
- **Water Quality Improvements Along the Trout River Trail** – Joan reported on update provided by former MCC member Monica Hill re: the status of this. Next steps would involve coordinating with local VAST group. Lynn offered to contact the members of this group for their input. Joan offered to follow up with other members of the group afterward, if necessary, depending on what Lynn finds out.
- **Donation to VT Bat Center** – All agreed that Lindsey Wight did an excellent presentation on bats in August. Carissa raised the idea of making a donation to the VT Bat Center in appreciation. Sue W. made a motion to donate \$50.00 to the VT Bat Center in appreciation of Lindsey Wight. Parma seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Bat Houses Installations** – Possible locations were discussed. There are 2 boxes currently available, with a possible third one. The possible locations include the Grange, the Rec. Center, the River Walk Park and the MES. Joan will contact Lindsey Wight for her suggestions in narrowing this down. After discussion, it was agreed to wait until spring to actually install them, though.
- **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)**– Municipal Grant application is due by 9/30/2020. After discussion, all agreed that we should proceed. Sue W. made a motion that Carissa work with Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) re: the grant application for the NRI, and that we ultimately hire professionals to do the inventory. Parma seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- **Signs – No Dumping – Public Swimming Holes, Locations** – Carissa plans to speak with Lindsey Wight and Misty re: this.
- **Bylaws Signatures** – The signatures of a few MCC members are still needed. Arrangements made for this to occur.
- **Green Up Day (GUD) Maple Tree Planting** – Misty was not at this meeting. She has information re: the situation with the tree. Therefore, tabled until next meeting.

Parma made a motion, seconded by Sue W., to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth