

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. at the Public Safety Building (PSB) conference room. In attendance: Charlie Hancock, Joan Hildreth, Misty McCartney, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson Absent: Todd Lantery Visitor(s): None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None

- Minutes from October 4, 2017 reviewed. (The November 2017 meeting had been cancelled, and no meetings were scheduled for Dec., Jan., and Feb.) Misty made a motion to approve the October minutes as written, Sue seconded, the motion passed. October minutes approved.
- Treasurer's Report/Fundraising Update: The latest balance in the account as of 12/31/17 was \$8,923.30. (\$750 was approved at the Town Meeting on 3/6/18. That money will be added in October of 2018. It should also be noted that the Conservation Reserve Fund passed at Town Meeting).
- Planned Events:
 - o **Mushroom Walk with Elliot Cluba at the Montgomery Town Forest – Sunday, 4/22/18 at 1:00 p.m.**
 - o **Bat Box Workshop co-sponsored with RCC in Richford on 4/28/18.** Raffle for bat box also. After discussion, Joan moved that we pay ½ of cost for any materials, up to \$100.00, Sue seconded, motion passed.
 - o **Bird Walk with Bridget Butler co-sponsored with RCC at Goynes' property in Richford 5/26.** Sue moved that we pay ½ of the cost, up to \$125.00. Misty seconded, and the motion passed.
 - o **Green-Up Day – May 5th - set up at Farmers' Market**
 - o **Tree Sale Pick-Up – May 5th from 12-2**

Proposed Events/Fundraisers:

- o **Bees/Beekeeping Presentation by James Lariviere of Northern Border Apiaries -** Details TBD. Sue had arranged for a 4/4 presentation by him, but there is a bear presentation the same night. She will check on his availability for 5/2 or another date instead.
- o **Pollinator Plants/Gardening Presentation** maybe in June indoors. Sue will check into Leonard Perry or Charlie Nardozi or possibly the owners of Nature by Design. In conjunction with this, the idea of planting a pollinator garden at the community gardens or Rec. Dept land was discussed. All agreed this would be worth looking into.

- **Emerald Ash Borer & Tent Caterpillar presentation – outdoors, in the field.** Maybe in July. Idea of inviting an entomologist from the state or other expert discussed.
 - **Mushroom Cultivation.** Maybe July or August. Sue is checking into availability of Ben Waterman from UVM for this.
 - **Land Management Workshop (including info re: pollinators) – outdoors, in the field.** Maybe end of August. Carissa working on this. Might have entomologist at this, too.
 - **River Clean-Up Sept. 8th.** Discussion of ideas for this, including a zucchini regatta and involving the school. Coordinating with other groups as well (W&S, MRBA, other CCs) – Misty in contact with the other organizations.
 - **Water Quality Issues Presentation/Panel** – maybe September. Initial ideas discussed, including possibility of showing the film “Lake Effect” as a part of the event. Joan will touch base with Lindsey Wight at MRBA.
- OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION –
 - Municipal Planning Grant for Natural Resource Inventory – Charlie reported that we expect to apply in the next round of W&S grants. (It was too late for the current cycle.)
 - AVCC Membership – Charlie will send in membership dues.
 - Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC) Mammal Trapping Camera Project – Joan provided info about this new project with VT Dept of F & W and CHC, and reported that the Montgomery area is included. Discussion of value of game cameras for community education and helping to support conservation efforts.
 - Franklin County Conservation District Signs– Carissa reported that signs re: riparian planting (as well as some other practices) are available for those interested and who are engaging in those practices. Cost - \$5.00 apiece.
 - Trout River Sediment Loads & Stabilization, & Related Info – Carissa raised the question of what is being done or planned to address road run-off issues. Discussion followed and there was agreement about the importance of this issue.
 - MCC membership – Discussion about potential additional members for MCC. Two interested community members. Charlie will follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth