

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:36 p.m. via Zoom. Attendance: Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, John Kuryloski, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Susan Baker, Charlie Hancock. Visitor(s): Patrick Calecas

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Sue W – Tree and plaque for graduating class at the school (MES); Rissa – Coordination with MRBA on various activities: Sue W. – mums.

Minutes from November 4, 2020 – Did not have a quorum of those who had attended the November meeting. Tabled until the April '21 meeting.

Welcome Visitor - Patrick Calecas is a Montgomery resident who is interested in what the MCC does, and he might be interested in joining the MCC.

Treasurer's Report – Sue W reported that, as of 3/3/21, checking account balance is \$14,523 and there is a 6-month CD for \$75,000 which will come due in June of '21. Joan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Parma. Passed unanimously. Report approved.

Planned Events/Projects:

- **Amphibians and Reptiles Zoom presentation by Jim Andrewes, state herpetologist – Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Invited by Richford Conservation Commission (RCC) to co-sponsor this along with Enosburg and (potentially) Bakersfield CCs.** Total cost would be \$250.00. Joan made a motion that the MCC co-sponsor this event and pay an equal share of the total cost, depending on the number of other CCs involved, of up to \$125.00. (The cost would be split evenly by the total number of CCs participating.) Sue W. seconded the motion; passed unanimously. Joan will check with Annette at RCC re: flyers. Usual promotion avenues will be utilized in addition. (Facebook, Front Porch Forum, Listserv, Town website.)
- **Franklin County Conservation District Tree Sale – May 1st.** After discussion, it was decided to offer the options of pick up or delivery. Matt offered to help with deliveries, if needed, as did Patrick.
- **Tree and Plaque for 2021 MES Graduating Class** - All agreed to purchase the tree (potentially a sugar maple) via the above tree sale. Carissa offered to get recommendations from Lauren Weston at the Conservation District re: trees. Sue W. made a motion that the MCC purchase a tree and plaque at a cost of up to \$100.00. John seconded; motion passed unanimously. There was also discussion about seeing if students could participate in the planting.
- **Riparian Planting Workshop – Sunday, May 2nd from 10:00 to noon at land across from Riverwalk Park – MCC in coordination with Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA)** – This will be an opportunity for participants to learn about tree planting and knotweed management, as well as to discuss other relevant questions which arise. As with all programs/projects,

recommended social distancing guidelines will be followed. Parma raised the issue of ticks and made a motion that the MCC purchase 2 bottles of natural tick repellent at a cost of up to \$40.00 for both for use by participants in the workshop. Sue W. seconded the motion; passed unanimously. Event will be promoted via flyer and other usual means.

- **Birding and Wellness Zoom presentation by Bridget Butler – Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Invited by RCC to co-sponsor this, potentially along with one or two other CCs.** Total cost would be \$250.00 Lynn made a motion that the MCC co-sponsor this event and pay an equal share of the total cost, depending on the number of other CCs involved, of up to \$125.00. Sue W. seconded; motion passed unanimously. Joan will check with Annette re: flyers. Usual promotional avenues will be utilized.
- **Town Forest Improvements/Coordination with Adjoining Landowners –** Matt and Rissa provided an update and will check with Charlie on the status of updating the Forest Management Plan (FMP). Further steps will be taken to clarify abutting landownership and to then coordinate/communicate with those landowners via a letter or other means re: the proposed improvements to the Town Forest. Rissa also reported that Lindsey Wight from MRBA/Upper Missisquoi and Trout River Wild and Scenic Committee (UMATR) agreed to be involved as appropriate re: water quality issues. All agreed to maintain focus on the Town Forest project this year.

Discussion:

- **Water Quality Improvements Along the Trout River Trail –** Carissa and Joan reported on a meeting with Lindsey Wight from UMATR re: erosion concerns along the trail. Carissa shared the draft of a letter to landowners to keep them informed and welcome input. After discussion, it was agreed that the MCC should apply for a grant from UMATR to help with this project, including a feasibility study. Sue W. made a motion that the MCC apply for the grant for \$5,000.00; seconded by John; motion passed unanimously. Joan and Carissa will work on the application which is due April 2, 2021.
- **Conservation District Update –** Carissa reported that Jeannie Bartlett has left her position there and Lauren Weston has taken over.
- **Library/Discovery Backpacks –** Tabled for now due to pandemic situation.
- **Bat Boxes –** To be installed at the Rec. Center, Riverwalk and the MES. Discussion re: materials needed. Patrick offered to contact Goodrich Lumber re: availability/cost of cedar posts. Lindsey & Carissa exploring sign options.
- **Swimming Hole Signs –** Lynn has offered to phone landowners, where signs are proposed, for their input. Letter to follow up if unable to reach by phone.
- **Mums for Fall Sale –** Sue to contact Beaver Meadow re: ordering 100 mums.
- **Collaboration w/ MRBA/UMATR -** monthly informational community gatherings idea. All were in favor of the concept. To be discussed further.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Passed unanimously. Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth