

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:38 p.m. via Zoom. Attendance: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, John Kuryloski, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock. Visitor(s): None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Welcome to Patrick Calecas, New Appointment to MCC: Everyone welcomed Patrick. Minutes from April 7, 2021 – Sue W. made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan B. The members present who had been at the April meeting all voted in favor. Patrick, Parma and Matt abstained from the vote because they had not been at the April meeting. Motion passed; April 7, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – No report available for this meeting.

Planned Events/Projects:

- **Tree and Plaque for 2021 MES Graduating Class** – Carissa reported that the Liberty apple tree has been purchased. 8th graders will be available to help with the planting. Covid guidelines will be followed. All agreed that it would be best to plant the tree ASAP. Sue W. will contact Sandy Alexander to set up a time for planting, hopefully the week of 5/10. Sue W. has ordered the plaque for the tree.
- **Birding and Wellness Zoom presentation by Bridget Butler – Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Co-sponsored with Enosburg and Richford Conservation Commissions (ECC, RCC).** Charlie made the flyer. Annette from RCC will contact Bridget about the invoice. Usual promotional means will be utilized.
- **Town Forest Improvements/Coordination with Adjoining Landowners** – Matt reported that the Forest Management Plan (FMP) is on Charlie's to do list. After that is completed and reviewed with members of the MCC, a letter will be sent out to abutting landowners to share info about the FMP and to initiate coordination with them re: any proposed improvements to the Town Forest. Joan will get in contact with members of the ECC and RCC to inquire about any rules/guidelines they have established for their Town Forests, as well as the process utilized for developing those. MCC members are also interested in doing a group visit to the Enosburg and Richford Town Forests to learn more about them and work which has been done.
- **Love Your Mums Sale – 1st weekend in September** – Sue W. has ordered the 100 mums for the sale. More details will be discussed closer to the event.

Discussion:

- **Landowner Liability Information** – There was discussion about this as it relates to various plans, including obtaining permission for putting up signs at

swimming holes and the potential for doing erosion control work along the Trout River. It was agreed that it is important to have a clear understanding of landowner liability issues and to be able to accurately convey this information to landowners as needed. John will draft a letter to landowners re: this for Charlie's review. It is possible that Charlie will run it by the Town Attorney, Charles Merriman, too, for further input/clarification.

- **Water Quality Improvements Along the Trout River Trail** – Still awaiting decision from UMATR re: the grant application which was submitted April 2nd.
- **Gifted Green Up Day Tree from 2020** – Carissa is looking into a location for planting, possibly at Riverwalk. She will check with the Rec. Board.
- **Bat Boxes** – To be installed at the Rec. Center, Riverwalk and likely at the MES. After discussion, it was agreed that two 16 ft. long pressure-treated 4x4s would be needed for each box, for a total of 6. Patrick agreed to order the wood. Carissa made a motion, seconded by Sue W., that up to \$250.00 could be spent for the lumber. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Swimming Hole Signs** – See section above re: landowner liability. Once there is clarification, the letter for landowner permission will be finalized. Also pertinent to this, Lynn plans to speak with landowners by Vincent's Bridge regarding questions they raised via an e-mail to the MCC about issues related to swimming hole access.
- **Subcommittee for MCC Chairperson Position** – Carissa stated that she would like to step down as Chairperson due to many other obligations. However, she plans to continue with the MCC. All agreed that she has done a great job as Chairperson. A subcommittee of Carissa, Patrick and John was formed to do a search for the new Chairperson and will report at the June meeting.
- **Future Meetings – Zoom or In Person** – New Covid-19-related guidelines which apply to Town meetings just came out. After review, it was decided to continue with Zoom meetings for now and revisit this at the next meeting in June.
- **Craftsbury Conservation Commission (CCC) Visitor Tour of Knotweed Treatment** – Elinor Osborn of the CCC is interested in doing a walking tour in June of the knotweed response near Riverwalk. The landowner (Chas) and Lindsey from MRBA are both agreeable to doing that, but no date has been set. As with all MCC events, Covid guidelines will be followed.

Patrick made a motion, seconded by Sue W., to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth