

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021

The meeting at the Rec. Center was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:35 p.m.
Attendance: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, John Kuryloski,
Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock. Visitors:
Joe Dematos, Shawna Dematos, Debbie Gemme.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Parma suggested discussion of other business.

Minutes from June 2, 2021 – Sue W. made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by
Parma. Motion passed unanimously; June 2, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue reported that there is \$16,023.74 in the checking account. The
\$75K CD was renewed for six months. The amount of interest which had been earned on
it was not available. Patrick made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded
by John. Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer's Report approved.

Planned Events/Projects:

- **Trout River Feasibility Study re: Water Quality Improvements** – Carissa
and Joan reported on the status of the proposed project. Discussion followed.
 - o An initial Zoom meeting was held with Technical Service Providers
(TSPs) Mariah Keagy of Sinuosity and Jeff Parsons of Arrowwood, Susan
B. and Joan on June 9th. Joan reported on that meeting as follows: All
acknowledged the importance of respect for and input from landowners,
including a key question of whether or not access would be granted for the
purpose of the assessment. It was agreed that another letter to landowners
should go out updating them about the award of the grant and requesting
feedback. Until the questions re: interest and access were answered, we
would not know whether or not the scope/goals would need revision. It
was also agreed that Sinuosity would take the lead on the project and
Arrowwood would be involved as appropriate as well. Mariah would wait
to develop a contract for services until the landowner access/interest
questions were answered.
 - o A letter to landowners did go out on June 14th. In terms of current status
of responses, Joan and Carissa reported that two of the ten recipients had
responded. One had made it clear that he did not want anyone coming
onto his land for the purpose of this project. The other person expressed
concerns about the project and allowing access, and raised relevant
questions. Joan has been in contact with that landowner. Charlie had
agreed to follow up with the other landowners but, as of last week, had not
yet had the opportunity to do so.
 - o Discussion: The members of the MCC in attendance and the visitors
discussed the proposed project. Questions were raised about the history of
the idea for the project and its evolution over the past couple of years.

Carissa provided an overview of the erosion concerns and environmental impacts as well as possible mitigation and the goals of that. Joan stated that, for the feasibility study itself, the TSPs would only need to be on the trail and would not have to go elsewhere on landowners' properties. The study would be for the purpose of determining the feasibility of addressing erosion concerns, whether or not the trail is open for community use(s). There was also discussion about the trail itself, including its past, current, and possible future uses, depending upon landowners' wishes and the condition of the trail. All agreed that it was very helpful to have the perspective and input of landowners/visitors in the discussion. Matt suggested that, given that the vision for the project has evolved over time, it would be helpful to provide clear information to the community about the current objective of the proposed project. Carissa plans to send in the grant specifics for posting on the town website for that purpose.

- **Town Forest (TF) Vision and Vision Walk:** – The public meeting was held at the Grange as scheduled on 6/30. Matt provided both a verbal and written summary of the meeting as well as update on related issues, and discussion followed. Again, it was very helpful to have the input of the landowners/visitors to this meeting. Ideas re: possible uses of the TF were raised including for educational purposes. Matt suggested that the next steps would be updating the draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) which Charlie did and scheduling a walk at the TF with any community members who are interested. It was agreed that this should occur relatively soon, perhaps in August. Matt plans to coordinate with Charlie on the date. Abutting landowners would be notified and word would be spread via the usual channels (including listserv, MCC Facebook page, flyers, word of mouth).
- **Love Your Mums Sale – 9/5/21–** All set – Sue W. ordered 100 mums.
- **Library List** – Matt compiled a long list of conservation-related books for people of all ages. He, Sue W. and Joan plan to meet with Marlene at the library to go over the list and the library's needs for a "conservation corner". There will be an emphasis on identifying books for young adults. Matt agreed to set up the meeting. Sue W. made a motion to authorize up to \$350.00 to be given to the library for the purpose of purchasing books for the "conservation corner". Susan B. seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Proposed:

- **Kurt Valenta Owl Presentation, Saturday, October 30th in Richford** – The RCC invited the MCC and ECC to co-sponsor this event. All agreed it would be great. Matt made a motion that the MCC spend up to \$150.00 for its share. Joan seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Joan will let RCC know.

Discussion:

- **"Splash Not Trash" Signs for Swimming Holes** – Lynn shared a draft of a letter to the Town's attorney seeking clarification of legal issues related to installing signage about not leaving trash. All agreed that the letter was great. Charlie will be asked about forwarding it to the attorney.
- **Other Business** – Parma raised the idea of having a presentation re: climate change and invasive pests specific to crops. Lynn also brought up forest pests

and mentioned a potential speaker who is leading another discussion locally in August. Matt raised the idea of having another talk about emerald ash borer (EAB) as well as other invasives. All agreed that these topics are important. Lynn will check into a possible presenter and share the information.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn at 6:56 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth