

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY  
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802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021

The meeting at the Rec. Center was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:30 p.m.  
Attendance: Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, John Kuryloski, Lynn Locher, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Charlie Hancock, Matt Paggi.  
Visitors: None.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Minutes from July 7, 2021 – Sue W. made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Parma. Motion passed unanimously; July 7, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue W. reported that there is \$16,438.82 in the checking account. The \$75K CD had been renewed for six months. The amount of interest which had been earned on it was not available. Parma 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. To date, of the ten landowners, four have expressed their support for the project, two have denied access to their property, two have been contacted by e-mail in addition to the letters but have not yet responded, and there are two others who have only been contacted by the two letters sent because the MCC has no additional contact information for them. The latter two have not yet responded to the letters. The Technical Service Providers (TSPs) have been informed about the status of landowner contact/permission. Susan B., Carissa and Joan recently met to discuss concerns about the ability to move forward with the project given the current situation with landowner contact/permission. Carissa and Joan then met with Lindsey Wight of UMATR on 8/3/21 to further update her and to discuss possible options. It was agreed by all three that, given the denial of access on the part of two landowners and the difficulty in reaching others, it would make sense to pivot to another important focus, specifically to the Town Forest (TF) project. Given that the TF does have running through it a tributary of West Hill Brook (which, in turn, is a tributary of the Trout River), what occurs in the Town Forest impacts the quality of the Trout River watershed. After the update and discussion with all of the members of the MCC in attendance at this meeting, Carissa made a motion that, for the feasibility study funded by the UMATR grant, the MCC should pivot to focusing on the TF and should continue to utilize the services of Sinuosity and Arrowwood if they remain interested and available. Parma seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Joan will contact Sinuosity and Arrowwood regarding this proposed change of focus and next steps. Lindsey requested that we send her a letter outlining the issues we had faced re: the original proposed project and our rationale for pivoting to the TF focus. She will then present that to her board. Joan will write the letter to Lindsey.

**-Love Your Mums Sale – 9/4/21, 9a.m. – 12 noon–** All set – Sue W. ordered 100 mums. Sue W. sent in info about the sale for posting in Town newsletter. This will also be promoted via Front Porch Forum, flyers, the MCC Facebook (FB) page, Montgomery VT FB page, and listserv. Lynn and potentially another MCC member will be at the Grange, and Parma and Carissa will be at Pratt Hall. Selling price for the mums will be 3 for \$21 or one for \$7.50.

**-Town Forest (TF) Vision Walk, Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.–** Matt and Charlie will be leading the walk. Carissa suggested the idea of providing an information sheet to those who attend and she will discuss this with Matt and Charlie. Parma offered to bring coffee and donuts, which all agreed would be great. There was some discussion about having items (such as gift certificates from local businesses or perhaps T-shirts) to give away at the walk, but it was decided to not do so for this event. Abutting landowners will need to be notified and word will be spread to the community via the usual channels (including listserv, MCC Facebook page, flyers, word of mouth).

**-Kurt Valenta Owl Presentation, Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> in Richford at their town library–** All set. Joan will ask Annette about a flyer and will inquire if any help is needed re: the presentation and other promotion.

#### **Proposed Events:**

**-Talks on Various Topics (Crop Pests, Forest Pests, Invasives, Landowners' Rights for Recreation Uses)** – Various ideas for topics were discussed, all of which were of interest. One idea would be to host a presentation about poison parsnip, given that it has been found closer to Montgomery and is of considerable concern. This could be discussed further at the next meeting. Also, at this point, the impact of the spread of the Delta Variant of COVID-19 on in-person gatherings is uncertain. It is possible that it could be necessary to revert exclusively to virtual presentations again.

#### **Discussion:**

**-"Splash Not Trash" Signs for Swimming Holes** – Lynn reported that there is no update at this time. Charlie was apparently going to be in contact with the town attorney regarding this.

**-Library List** – Matt, Sue W., and Joan met with Marlene, the Town librarian re: the book list and "conservation corner". Sue reported on the meeting. Marlene has set aside a number of book shelves for the "conservation corner" and, since the meeting, she has purchased a wide variety of the suggested books for those of all ages. The MCC will pay \$350 toward the purchase, as authorized at the last meeting, and the library will provide an additional \$100. Also, Sue has been in contact with Ali Jackson, as Marlene had suggested, regarding discovery backpacks for children. It was also agreed that we should revisit the idea of a conservation bulletin board at the library now that it has re-opened for in-person use.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth