

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

The meeting at the Rec. Center was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:33 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: Marlene Hambleton, Town Librarian.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Welcome Visitor(s): Marlene provided an update on information related to the library's Conservation Corner (CC). She reported that she has purchased most of the books from the list the MCC provided, with a few exceptions due to high prices or other characteristics which would make them less desirable in circulation (e.g., spiral binding). The purchase went over the \$350 previously authorized by the MCC by \$150. After discussion about the importance of having all of the books, Carissa made a motion, seconded by Patrick, to authorize an additional \$150 to cover the cost of the books. The motion passed unanimously. In addition, Marlene shared details about a grant for which the library is applying. A number of items will be for the CC, including four discovery backpacks, a wireless digital microscope and a telescope. Marlene will keep the MCC posted on the status of the grant and whether or not additional items will be needed. The MCC is providing Marlene with the list of items Ali Jackson suggested for the discovery/young naturalist backpacks in case there is an interest in adding those items later. In addition, Marlene shared other ideas for the CC, including moving some of the library's DVDs related to conservation into the CC and adding to that collection. She also mentioned that the library is considering having raised beds outside of the building in the future and having a seed exchange.

Minutes from August 4, 2021 – Parma made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sue W. All of those in attendance at the August meeting (Joan, Parma, John, Lynn, Carissa and Sue W.) voted in favor. Susan, Patrick and Matt were not at the August meeting and abstained from the vote. Motion passed; August 4, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue W. reported that there is a total of \$91,088.82 (\$16,088.82 in the checking account and \$75K in a CD). Parma made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by John. Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer's Report approved.

Planned Events/Projects:

-Love Your Mums Sale – 9/4/21, 9a.m. – 12 noon- All set – 100 mums. This has been promoted via Front Porch Forum, flyers, the MCC Facebook (FB) page, Montgomery VT FB page, and listserv. Lynn and John will be at the Grange, and Parma and Carissa will be at Pratt Hall. Selling price for the mums will be 3 for \$21; one for \$7.50.

-Town Forest (TF) Vision Walk, Saturday, Sept. 18th at 10:00 a.m.- Matt and Charlie will be leading the walk. Matt will provide info to Carissa for her to use in a flyer about the event. Matt agreed to send out a letter to abutting landowners to invite them to

attend. Parma will bring coffee and donuts. This event will be promoted via listserv, MCC Facebook page, Montgomery VT FB page, flyers, Town website, word of mouth. **-UMATR Grant – Town Forest (TF) Planning** – Carissa and Joan reported that UMATR has approved the pivot from the Trout River/Wade Brook proposed project to the TF project. The two technical service providers (TSPs), Sinuosity and Arrowwood, who were first contacted about the original project, have expressed their interest in the TF project. There will be a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 16th at 3:00 with the TSPs and members of the MCC's Grant and TF subcommittees to discuss the project's focus and next steps. Also, landowners along the Trout/Wade Brook are being notified about this change of plans for use of the grant funds.

-Kurt Valenta Owl Presentation, Saturday, October 30th at 10:00 a.m. in Richford at their town library– Carissa has offered to make the flyer for the event. This event will be promoted closer to its scheduled date.

Proposed Events:

-Talks on Crop Pests, Forest Pests, Invasives - Possible presenters and topics were discussed. Carissa and Joan had contacted possible presenters and shared related info. Parma brought up the idea of asking Mary Niles if she would be interested in doing a presentation about climate change and crop resistance/adaptability. All agreed that this was a great idea. Parma will contact Mary. At this point, a proposed date and venue are unclear. It will depend on availability of presenter(s) as well as status of the pandemic (i.e., whether or not a return to virtual presentations will become necessary.)

- **Talk on Landowners' Rights/Liability re: Recreation Use** – There was no discussion about a specific presentation, but see below (“Signs for Swimming Holes”) for relevant information.

Discussion:

-Signs for Swimming Holes – Lynn reported that Charlie has been in contact with the Town attorney, Charles Merriman, regarding liability questions. She will forward this information to other members of the MCC. In summary, Lynn shared that there are concerns re: potential liability issues related to landowners posting the “Splash Not Trash” signs.

-Young Naturalist Backpacks – Please see info in “Welcome Visitor(s)” section above.

-Library Literature on Conservation - Please see above section on “Welcome Visitor(s)” for information re: this.

-Garden Club/Barrel Planting – It was reported that the Garden Club (GC) has voted to disband and transfer their funds to the MCC. There was discussion about the flower barrels which the GC has maintained, and concern was expressed re: taking on that task. Carissa agreed to contact Marsha Phillips, a former member of the GC regarding this.

Joan made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn at 7:04 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth