

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

The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Carissa Stein at 5:37 p.m. Attendance: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, John Kuryloski, Lynn Locher, Parma Jewett, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Charlie Hancock.

Visitors: None.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Tree purchase in honor of the Montgomery Elementary School (MES) 2022 graduating class.

Visitors - None.

Minutes from October 6, 2021 – Patrick made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Parma. Everyone who was in attendance at the October meeting and also at the November meeting voted to approve (Susan B., Patrick, Joan, Parma, Matt and Carissa). Those who were not at the October meeting (John, Lynn and Sue W.) abstained from the voting. Motion passed; October 6, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Not available for this meeting.

Planned Events/Projects:

-UMATR Grant – Town Forest (TF) Planning – It was reported that the revised Scope of Work and timeline for the project was approved by the UMATR Wild and Scenic Committee. Jeff Parsons of Arrowwood met with Charlie Hancock at the TF on 11/2 and Jeff did a walk through that day as part of the Natural Resource Assessment. The Technical Service Providers (TSPs) and Lindsey Wight from UMATR have been provided with the results of the TF Survey.

Proposed Events:

-2022 Presentation(s) on Crop Pests, Forest Pests, Invasives, Climate Change– It was agreed that in-person presentations (vs. Zoom) are preferable. Parma reported that Mary Niles would apparently be willing to do a presentation, hopefully at her place, about climate change and crop resistance/adaptability. Parma also raised the idea of having a presentation by a local beekeeper on Beekeeping & Native pollinators. All agreed that these are great ideas for presentations. Everyone will think about other ideas over the winter, too.

- ANR/VT Fish and Wildlife Presentations for Vermonters Serving on Town Boards and Municipal Staff – Carissa reported that she had previewed one of the presentations – on Inventories for Towns -which would be relevant to the MCC's focus. All agreed that it would be good to view it as a group, hopefully in February of 2022, and discuss it afterward. Carissa plans to send out a survey to members of the MCC in order to come up with a date to view it, preferably in person at the Public Safety Building (assuming that Covid guidelines would allow that.)

- Live Animals of Vermont by Southern VT Natural History Museum – The Richford Conservation Commission (RCC) expressed interest in the idea of co-hosting an event in

2022. All agreed that it was a good idea. Joan will let Annette of the RCC know of the MCC's interest as well.

Discussion:

-TF Survey Results – Carissa shared a presentation of the results. The goal had been to receive at least 100 completed surveys and that was exceeded; 121 surveys were submitted. All of the responses and thoughtful comments were very much appreciated. The TF Committee will do a write-up, to be shared with the community, summarizing the results and next steps. As stated above, survey results have been provided to the TSPs and UMATR, too.

-Montgomery Town Library Literature on Conservation and Promotion – Carissa agreed to reach out to Town Librarian Marlene Hambleton regarding: the use of the library's bulletin board for conservation-related issues; promotion of the Conservation Corner, and; promotion of Earth Day.

-2022 UMATR Town Infrastructure Grants available – applications due December 1st – At the last meeting it was agreed to not pursue the UMATR grant which had a deadline of November 1st given that the deadline was quickly approaching and the MCC was already busy with other projects. Therefore, it did not appear to be the right timing. However, Carissa agreed to send out information about this grant (with the 12/1/21 deadline) to everyone on the MCC for review and input.

Surface Water Source Protection Area (1289 Hill West Rd. public spring)-

Carissa raised the topic of this spring and its importance as the water source for residents. She would like to reach out to the landowners about the potential of having it mapped as a surface water protection area. The other local spring which is a water source for residents, located on Route 58 (on the way up Hazen's Notch pass), was also discussed.

-Tree in Honor of MES Class of 2022 – All agreed that the MCC would like to plant a tree again this spring in honor of the MES graduating class. Sue W. made a motion that the MCC purchase a tree at a cost not to exceed \$50.00 from the Vermont Conservation District Tree Sale this coming spring. John seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

-MCC Schedule of Meetings – It should be noted that the MCC will not be formally meeting in December, January or February. The next scheduled MCC meeting will be March 2, 2022.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth