

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY  
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the Public Safety Building (PSB) by Carissa Stein at 5:35 p.m. Attendance: Susan Baker, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, Parma Jewett, Matt Paggi, Carissa Stein. Absent: Patrick Calecas, Charlie Hancock, John Kuryloski, Sue Wilson.

Visitors: Marlena Valenta of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)  
Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Additions: Presentation by Marlena; mums sale purchase; tree plaque for the Montgomery Elementary School (MES) class of '22; renewal of MCC appointments; Green Up Day; 350 Vermont Rewild Vermont proposal.  
Presentation by Marlena – She is the Climate and Energy Planner at NRPC and shared re: her role there. She is available to help with various projects. One of those is a Window Dresser (WD) event. WD makes insulating window inserts and the goal is to make them available to anyone who is interested and whose homes could benefit from them. They will offer them at reasonable prices and will make them available at lower costs to those in need. The MCC is welcome to spread the word about this. Community volunteers will measure windows and then do the building of the inserts in the Fall of this year. All agreed that it was a great idea. Marlena provided the MCC with fliers with information about the project for dissemination. Other examples of Marlena's interests include helping towns with grants, supporting energy committees, development of more electric vehicle (EV) charging sites, spreading information about EVs.

Minutes from November 3, 2021 – Matt made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lynn. Motion passed unanimously; November 3, 2021 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Current balance of \$15,883.48, and \$75,000.00 plus interest in CD.

**Planned Events/Projects:**

**-UMATR Grant – Town Forest (TF) Planning** – Joan has been in contact with the TSPs and all tasks are on schedule thus far per the Scope of Work.

**-Conservation District's Tree Sale Pick-Up in Montgomery** – This will be Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the PSB. Carissa will find out soon how many trees there will be.

**-Mums Sale** – This will be held again this Fall. Carissa made a motion for the MCC to order 100 mums from Beaver Meadow, Lynn seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed Events:**

**-2022 Presentation(s) on Pests (Vegetables, Forest, Invasives), Climate Change at Mary Niles' Farm** - Parma has been in contact with Mary Niles and she is willing to do a presentation at her place to discuss regenerative agriculture and climate change resilience. Parma will get in touch with her to discuss additional details, including # of people and potential dates. All agreed that September might be a good time for this.

**Beekeeping by a Local Beekeeper-** Following discussion, Lynn offered to contact John Little to see if he would be interested in doing a presentation.

**“Live Animals of Vermont” by Southern VT Natural History Museum-** Carissa provided information re: the variety of topics the organization can cover and everyone agreed that they all sound great. Carissa had also contacted other local CCs to see if they would be interested in co-sponsoring. There was discussion about possibly having a presentation geared to children and one for all ages. Carissa plans to contact Sandy at the MES about the one for children. The idea was raised to have presentation(s) in August.

**- ANR/VT Fish and Wildlife Presentations on Natural Resources Inventories for Towns –** Carissa had sent out a link for this to the MCC. Those who have not yet viewed it were encouraged to do so. There will be discussion about it at the April meeting.

**- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): It’s Here, What Now? –** After discussion, it was agreed that there should be a community presentation about EAB. Joan will contact Nancy Patch for recommendations and will also contact the RCC and ECC to see if there would be interest in co-sponsoring an event.

**Discussion:**

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

Carissa plans to map the hydrology of the spring area. Parma will investigate the relevant land ownership.

**-Montgomery Town Library Write-Up –** Carissa wrote an informational piece regarding the Library Conservation Corner. All agreed that it looks great. Carissa will forward it to Town Librarian Marlene Hambleton.

**350 Vermont Rewild Vermont –** Kate Gannon from this organization had contacted Carissa and Charlie about their program in order to assess Montgomery’s interest in planting donated fruit and nut trees on Town land as part of an effort to address food insecurity and community resiliency. All agreed that this is a great idea. There was discussion re: possible locations as well as other town organizations which could be involved. Some ideas for locations are the Community Garden, the MES and a currently leased cornfield. Carissa plans to obtain more information about the program and will let the Selectboard know about the various ideas.

**-Tree in Honor of MES Class of 2022 –** The maple tree has been ordered. Joan made a motion to approve up to \$75.00 for the purchase of a plaque for the tree. Susan B. seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Sue W. will order the plaque as soon as a decision has been made re: the quote for it. Everyone will look for appropriate quotes and share them over the next week to ten days.

**Green Up Day –** Carissa will contact Misty McCarthy re: plans for the event.

**-MCC Position Appointments–** The appointments of Lynn, Matt, and Parma are all up in 2022. All three were asked about their interest in continuing on the MCC and all three agreed to the renewal of their appointments. Therefore, their terms would expire in 2026.

Lynn. made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth