

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the Public Safety Building (PSB) by Matt Paggi at 5:33 p.m. Attendance: Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, Parma Jewett, Matt Paggi, Sue Wilson. Absent: Susan Baker, Charlie Hancock John Kuryloski, Carissa Stein. Visitors: Karen Stanley

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Tree planting for 2022 MES graduating class

Welcome to visitor – Karen is interested in the MCC and is considering joining.

Everyone welcomed her to the meeting.

Minutes from March 2, 2022 – There was not a quorum for voting on the minutes.

Therefore, discussion/voting re: approval is tabled until the May meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Not available.

Planned Events/Projects:

-UMATR Grant – Town Forest (TF) Planning – Joan reported on the status of the project. Arrowwood has finished the field work for the Natural Resource Assessment and the Winter Wildlife Assessment and will soon provide a written document with their findings, which will then also be provided to Sinuosity. Joan has updated UMATR about this as well. Thus far, the technical service providers' (TSPs') tasks are on schedule. After discussion, it was agreed that Joan would contact both of the TSPs (Sinuosity and Arrowwood) about the idea of coming to an MCC meeting to discuss the project.

-Conservation District's Tree Sale Pick-Up in Montgomery – Saturday, 5/7 from 10 to 1 at the PSB. Matt and Patrick offered to help with transportation of trees as needed. Once Carissa knows the number of trees, she will coordinate with Matt and Patrick.

Green Up Day (GUD)– Carissa had reported that she had not yet heard from Misty McCartney re: needs for the event. All agreed that the MCC wants to support the efforts of GUD. As such, Sue W. made a motion to authorize up to \$100.00 for items (supplies, prizes, etc.) for GUD. Parma seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

-Presentation on Pests (Vegetables, Forest, Invasives), Climate Change at Mary Niles' Farm – After discussion, it was agreed that Parma would contact Mary re: additional plans and propose an August date. Limiting the number of participants and requiring sign up in advance were suggested. Mary had offered to provide refreshments, but all agreed that she should not have to do that; the MCC could take care of that part.

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Talk– Joan has been in contact with Nancy Patch and other local CCs. Nancy had offered to either do a presentation herself or help find a presenter. All agreed that Nancy would be great. Therefore, Joan will be in contact with her about possible dates/times. The other CCs are interested in co-sponsoring, too, and Joan will be in contact with them re: details. All agreed that the Grange in Montgomery would be a good location, and that sometime in June would make sense.

-Beekeeping by a Local Beekeeper- Lynn has been in contact with John Little and he is interested in doing a presentation. He proposed doing it at his place sometime in mid-July. All agreed that sounded great and Lynn will let John know.

“-Live Animals of Vermont” by Southern VT Natural History Museum- Carissa provided information about this for discussion at the meeting, including a breakdown of the costs for presentations at the school (for students) and in the evening for other community members. Other local CCs have expressed interest in co-sponsoring. The school requested to have this the first week of June. Joan and/or Carissa will be in contact with other CCs about planning. After reviewing the costs and a discussion, Sue W. made a motion to authorize the MCC to pay up to \$700.00 for its share of the costs of the presentations. Patrick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. _

Proposed Events:

- **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. All who had seen it found it very helpful and everyone agreed with the idea of completing a Natural Resources Inventory for Montgomery.

-**Birding 101** – Joan reported the Bridget Butler is booked up for the spring, but Annette Goyne of RCC and Todd Marlow have offered to do a bird walk for beginners to birding. All agreed that this would be great. Joan will contact Annette about details.

Discussion:

-**Montgomery Town Library Bulletin Board** – Carissa let the MCC know that a date has been set for decorating the bulletin board in celebration of Earth Day and to announce the conservation discovery backpacks and conservation corner. This will be 4/11 at 4:00 p.m. Any MCC members who are interested and available are welcome to attend.

Fruit/Nut Tree Planting – 100 trees have been offered to Montgomery. Carissa has been in contact with the Montgomery Elementary School about possible locations. Please see the topic below (Leased Town Land Assessment) for another idea.

-**Tree in Honor of MES Class of 2022** – Sue W. showed everyone the plaque and all agreed that it looks great. The quote on it is: *"Do not be afraid to go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is."* -Anonymous. Sue reported that the MES will be in touch about a date for planting the sugar maple which was ordered, probably in early May.

-**Leased Town Land Assessment** – Carissa did an assessment of the Jewett property on Rt. 118 and Fuller Bridge Rd. which is currently leased from the Town for planting corn. She provided information re: the current status of the land, including concerns about soil quality and erosion. She then offered ideas on potential improvements (including planting fruit/nut trees). She presented this to the Selectboard on 4/4/22. All agreed that it is excellent. Sue W. made a motion that the MCC send a letter to the Selectboard in support of the plan for the property. Matt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

. -**MCC Positions**– Charlie Hancock resigned from the MCC effective 4/1/22. Sue W. made a motion to accept his resignation, Patrick seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Everyone expressed deep appreciation for all of Charlie's many contributions during his time on the MCC. Although his resignation is understandable, everyone is very sad about his leaving. Karen Stanley expressed her interest in joining the MCC and everyone was pleased to hear that. Sue W. made a motion to present Karen's name to the Selectboard for approval, Parma seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Parma made a motion, seconded by Patrick, to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth