

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

Meeting was called to order at the Public Safety Building (PSB) by Carissa Stein at 5:38 p.m. Attendance: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, John Kuryloski, Karen Stanley, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Parma Jewett, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi. Visitors: None

Welcome to New Member: Karen Stanley was appointed to the MCC by the Selectboard at their last meeting and was officially welcomed to the MCC at this meeting.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Minutes 3/2 and 4/6/22– Sue W. made a motion, seconded by John, to approve both minutes. Karen abstained due to just becoming an MCC member this month. All others present voted in favor and the motion passed; March and April minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Not available.

Planned Events/Projects:

-UMATR Grant – Town Forest (TF) Planning – Joan stated that Arrowwood had provided a summary of findings from the fall and winter wildlife walks at the TF and this was shared with the MCC. Arrowwood is coordinating with the other technical service provider (TSP), Sinuosity. TSP tasks are on schedule, and the TSPs will attend the July MCC meeting to present the conceptual trail design. Joan will update UMATR as well.

-Conservation District's Tree Sale Pick-Up in Montgomery – Saturday, 5/7 from 10 to 1 at the PSB. Carissa plans to be there at the PSB with Kate from the Conservation District. Matt and Patrick will help with transportation of trees to the PSB.

Green Up Day (GUD)– Plans for the day are all set. Carissa let Misty McCartney know about the \$100.00 authorized by the MCC for GUD supplies.

-Tree in Honor of Montgomery Elementary School (MES) Class of 2022 – Carissa reported that she has the sugar maple. Sue W. has contacted Sandy at the MES re: scheduling planting for the week of May 9th. She will let others know the date when set.

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Talk– Nancy Patch will do the presentation on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 6:30 at the Montgomery Grange. Richford and Enosburg CCs, along with the MCC, will co-sponsor the event. Joan is waiting to hear from Bakersfield CC to see if they would like to join in. Carissa has made a draft flyer which looks great. She will add a couple of other pieces of information to it and it will be run by Nancy Patch and the other CCs for their input. Word about the event will be spread through the usual channels (including MCC FB page, Montgomery Newsletter, Front Porch Forum, Town website, listserv). Nancy Patch has indicated that there is no fee for her presentation but all agreed that it would be a nice gesture of appreciation to do something for Nancy. Carissa made a motion to authorize \$50.00 for something of Nancy's choosing (e.g., a donation to an organization, a gift certificate). Sue W. seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**"-Wildlife of the Watershed" by Southern VT Natural History Museum-
Wednesday, June 8th at 1:00 and at 2:00 p.m. at the MES** This will be for MES

students and members of the Montgomery community only. Carissa reported that the plans are all set for this and shared a copy of the invoice for the event which is under the \$700.00 cap the MCC had approved at the April 2022 meeting. All agreed that it would make sense to first have these presentations on 6/8 to see how they go before deciding on whether/when to have another similar presentation open to the broader community.

-Presentation on Pests (Vegetables, Forest, Invasives), Climate Change at Mary Niles' Farm – Tabled until next meeting. Parma has the information about this event and was not able to attend this meeting.

-Beekeeping by a Local Beekeeper- Tabled until next meeting. Lynn has the information about this event and was not able to attend this meeting.

-Birding 101 – Joan reported that Annette Goyne of RCC and Todd Marlow are working on a date and details for this. It will likely be on June 4th but needs to be confirmed. Once that happens, a flyer will be needed and word will be spread. Joan will check in with Annette about the plans and let other MCC members know.

Proposed Events:

- ANR/VT Fish and Wildlife Presentations on Natural Resources Inventories for Towns – Carissa encouraged everyone who had not yet viewed this on-line presentation to please do so.

-Farmers' Market: Table for MCC Topics, Happenings and Documentation – Carissa suggested having a table at some of the Farmers' Markets this summer and include two large maps of Montgomery which community members could write on to share any observations they would like such as wildlife, unique natural features or plant sightings. This would be useful in the development of the Natural Resource Inventory. All agreed that this was a great idea. It was decided to have this at one Farmers' Market per month of operation (July, August, Sept.). Patrick offered to lend a pop-up tent. John volunteered to build an easel for maps. Patrick offered to check out a source for an MCC banner. Sue W. made a motion, seconded by John, to approve up to \$100.00 for a banner and up to \$100.00 for printing and laminating of maps. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

-Montgomery Town Library Collaboration and Book Trail – Carissa shared re: the steps the library has taken to promote conservation related issues including the bulletin board display, Conservation Corner and seed pots. Marlene, the librarian had also suggested the idea of a "book trail" in order to learn concepts in a natural setting. All agreed that this was a great idea and should be supported by the MCC.

Fruit/Nut Tree Planting 2023 Plans– There is interest in the offer from 350 Vermont of trees for the Town. Possible sites are at the MES and/or on leased Town land.

-Leased Town Land Update – Sue W. reported that, at the most recent Selectboard meeting, the Town voted to not renew the lease for the cornfield. This makes it possible for the Town to consider other uses for the site, including those suggested by Carissa in her assessment and which are fully supported by the MCC. The MCC members expressed interest in working with the Town in whatever way(s) would be most appropriate as the Town moves forward in determining the best use(s) for this land.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by John, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth