

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2022

Meeting was called to order at the Grange/Town Hall by Carissa Stein at 5:32 p.m.
Attendance: Susan Baker, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, John Kuryloski, Matt Paggi,
Karen Stanley, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Patrick Calecas, Parma Jewett.
Visitors: None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda – None.

Minutes 5/4/22– Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Susan B., to approve the May minutes. The motion passed unanimously; May 2022 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Not available at time of meeting, but reported immediately afterward. As of May, 2022 the checking account balance is \$15,798.53; CD is \$75,000.00 for a total of \$90,798.53. In addition, there was CD interest of \$112.31 reported as of 4/29/22, which would increase the total to \$90,910.84.

Planned Events/Projects:

-UMATR Grant – Town Forest (TF) Planning – After discussion, it was agreed that Joan would contact the Technical Service Providers (TSPs) to see if they can present the conceptual trail design at our next meeting on 7/6/22, starting at 5:00 p.m. (instead of the usual MCC meeting time of 5:30). If that works for them, the MCC would then continue with its meeting afterward. Joan will also invite Charlie Hancock as well as Lindsey Wight from UMATR.

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Talk– Nancy Patch's presentation at the Grange immediately followed this meeting and was recorded for future viewing. Although Nancy made it clear that there was no fee for her presentation, she did agree to the MCC's wish to make a contribution to Cold Hollow to Canada in her honor as a gesture of thanks.

**“-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 that she had forwarded the invoice to Erin Kopacz, Town Treasurer. Appropriate channels for promotion of the event have been utilized.

-Birding 101 Saturday, June 4, Richford (Rail Trail) 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. with Annette Goyne of RCC and Todd Marlow – Carissa reported that 15 people have signed up. There is a possibility that the event will be cancelled/rescheduled due to a recent illness, but that is yet TBD. At this writing, the event is still on.

-Beekeeping with John Little Mid-July- Lynn has been in contact with John and reported that a specific date will be determined based on bee activity/honey production. There will be about a two week notice of the exact date/time, at which point information about the event will be shared via the Listserv and other appropriate channels.

-Farmers' Market MCC Table: Banner (\$), Proposed Dates of 7/16, 8/20, 9/10 – All agreed to the above dates for having the table at the Farmers' Market. Carissa shared various quotes for a banner and for map lamination. After discussion, John made a motion to spend up to \$135.00 for map lamination, Sue W. seconded, and the motion

passed unanimously. Carissa then made a motion to spend up to \$50.00 for a 1'x8' banner, Sue W. seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. There was discussion re: sources for lamination and the banner, and also about information/materials to have available at the table in addition to the map, including a Town Forest overview, handouts about conservation-related info (e.g., invasives) and the development of the Natural Resources Inventory.

Proposed Events/Projects:

- **Natural Resources Inventory for Town - ANR/VT Fish and Wildlife** - All agreed that community input re: the map at the Farmers' Market will be a great starting point for developing the inventory.

-**Presentation on Pests (Vegetables, Forest, Invasives), Climate Change at Mary Niles' Farm** – This idea is on hold and will likely be revisited next year.

-**Collaboration on Village Town Land – Meeting with Community Garden, Recreation Board, Planning Board, Parma Jewett (Montgomery Cares), Lois Lumbra (UMC Food Pantry) as well as Soil Testing** – Carissa had presented at a Selectboard meeting in May re: residual herbicide at the property and the reasons to suspend any broadleaf planting for 18 months. At that meeting and this one, she discussed the value of two different types of soil testing and the benefits of each. The Selectboard had expressed support for the MCC moving forward with soil testing as needed. Carissa suggested that the next steps would be: 1. Assess the water table; 2. Meet with the above-listed stakeholders to discuss the land and obtain their input; 3. Do the first type of soil test (and consider the soil health test after that). Carissa shared information re: approximate soil test costs. After discussion, Matt made a motion to authorize up to \$150.00 for the initial soil tests on the Village Town Land, Susan B. seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

-**Three Holes and Mill Trail and Reflection Bench** – Susan B. raised the idea of cleaning up the trail and having a reflection bench placed there. All agreed that it is a great idea. Susan has contacted an abutting landowner for input and is awaiting a response. The MCC will discuss further at another MCC meeting.

-**Sponsorship Donations** – Karen reported that her employer, Jolley Associates, kindly and generously donated 10 gas cards of \$25.00 each for the MCC to be able to give to event presenters. Everyone was very appreciative and presenters certainly will be also.

-**Montgomery Town Library Collaboration and Book Trail** –Lynn agreed to contact Rolf Anderson of Hazen's Notch Association re: the proposed book trail in a natural setting.

Fruit/Nut Tree Planting 2023 Plans– Tabled until next meeting.

Sue W. made a motion, seconded by John, to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Passed unanimously.
Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth