

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the Rec. Center by Carissa Stein at 5:34 p.m.

Attendance: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Parma Jewett, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Karen Stanley, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson Absent: Joan Hildreth, John Kuryloski
Visitors: Lauren Weston - Franklin County Conservation District, District Manager, and Hilary Roberts, a member of the community who is concerned about invasive species.

Additions/Deletions/Change to Agenda – Agenda Item 6(c) - Discussion with Hilary on the Town Invasive Plan was moved to the first discussion.

Minutes 8/3/22– Sue W. made a motion, seconded by Lynn L. to approve the August minutes. The motion passed unanimously; the August 3, 2022 minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Not available. The Town of Montgomery’s Treasurer Erin K. will be contacted so that the MCC knows the balance in the MCC DDA.

Discussion:

Hilary, an interested community member, attended the meeting & expressed concerns about invasive species in Town, especially Japanese Knotweed. Hilary shared her knowledge about & experience with J. Knotweed; how it grows & propagates, and the most effective way to treat & potentially arrest this invasive species. Members of the MCC Board and Lauren W. shared their experiences. All agreed that Select Board involvement is essential, as is developing a policy/plan & educating community members and working with land managers, to include where new sources of Knotweed have been introduced. Carissa stated she would contact Lindsey Wight from MRBA, because they have extensive efforts towards learning about mitigating J. Knotweed and asked Hilary if she would be interested in being on a sub-committee to develop a town plan for invasives, she agreed.

Lauren Weston was introduced by Carissa S., both of whom had walked the Town Land earlier in the day. Lauren’s background as a water resource engineer and her experience at Mary Niles Black Falls Farm. Lauren provided the Board with her observations about the Town Land and offered the following suggestions: (a) The MCC & Town may want to consider using a portion of the land for a “Flood Retention Field” (“FRF”), which if done properly, would minimize the impact (volume & velocity) of floodwaters downstream. Lauren knows of studies that can be completed to model the impact of floodwaters if a flood retention field were created, and the best way in which to create said field; and (b) the MCC & Town should consider conducting an archeological study at the same time if it pursues modeling a flood retention field. Lauren discussed grants available through the Lake Champlain Basin Program’s “Clean Water & Healthy

Ecosystems Project” that could assist with the floodplain modeling; and possibly, grants with the University of Vermont’s consulting archeological program to assist with the archeological study. The applicant of any grants would have to be the Town of Montgomery. Carissa will discuss with the Selectboard.

Action Item: Carissa S. made a motion, 2nd by Lynn L. to begin the process for the MCC to be in a position to make a proposal to the Town’s Selectboard to apply for a grant or grants through the LCBP to study/model a FRF and to conduct an archeological study of the Town’s Land.

Planned Events/Projects:

-Farmers’ Market, Grange Mum Sale & MCC Booth on 9/10, Parma J., Carissa S., and Lynn L. will plan to be at the MCC table at Pratt Hall; and Susan B. and Patrick C. will be at the Grange on 9/10. Sue W. noted that Phil from Beaver Meadows would deliver 50 mums to each location. Patrick C. agreed to get “the bank” (i.e change), and all participants would be at Pratt Hall or the Grange well before 9AM.

-Montgomery Town Library Collaboration and Book Trail –All agreed to move forward with the Book Trail - Lynn L. will get permission from Rolf A. first, and then Carissa S. agreed to post the pages along the trails. All attempts will be made to have the Book Trail “active” soon and run through the remainder of the month.

-Three Holes and Mill Trail and Reflection Bench - A walk of the trail and site is scheduled for October 4, 2022 at 4:00PM. All interested Board members and Members of the Community are invited to attend.

-Partnering w/ CHC, ECC, & RCC for Kiley Briggs, Wood Turtle Expert with Orienne Society on October 2, 2022 CHC is coordinating this presentation.

Additional Discussion:

-Town Forest (TF) Trail Update- Board members Carissa S., Matt. P., Susan B., Karen S., and Patrick C.; and community members Mike & Gibou Stein and Barb Paggi walked the proposed trail layout in the Town Forest on September 6, 2022 to assess whether the design proposed by Sinuosity was what the Board wanted to recommend to the Selectboard and pursue. Thanks to Joan & Bill Hildreth, the trail was flagged a few days earlier and was easy to follow. All agreed that the initial design of the trail was worth pursuing.

- John Little and Lutz Saborowski Bee Keeping Demo #2 - Three people attended, but no one received feedback from these participants.

- Jewett Estate Town Land Visits and Next Steps –

Next visits will be potentially working with a River Scientist, Staci Pomeroy which is part of learning about the watershed dynamics and Lindsey Wight for watershed partners on experience and input.

Additional Discussion:

Lauren Weston - Franklin County Conservation District, District Manager, asked if MCC had any interest in having [BioBlitzs](#) (attempt to document every living species in a moment in time at a particular location) and a Sustainable Angling Workshop in the local area. This would be a supporting organization with a grant they are applying for with UMATR; Franklin County Conservation District would be the grantee/manager. The idea was well received and it was decided to make it official by a vote.

Action Item: Lynn L. made a motion, 2nd by Matt P. to be a partner for the events forementioned. Sue W. had to leave at 7pm; there was no opposition to the motion by all others attending.

Carissa S. made a motion, seconded by Lynn L. to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Patrick Calecas