

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY  
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802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order at the Public Safety Building (PSB) by Carissa Stein at 5:37 p.m.

Attendance: Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, John Kuryloski, Matt Paggi, Karen Stanley, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson. Absent: Susan Baker, Parma Jewett, Lynn Locher.

Visitors: None

Additions/Deletions/Changes to Agenda – Moving forward with inventory information from the community/resource map, initiated at Farmer’s Market over the summer of 2022.

Minutes 10/5/22– John made a motion, seconded by Carissa to approve the October minutes. The motion passed unanimously; the October 5, 2022 minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – \$14,718.07 cash on hand in account; \$75,000 plus interest in CD.

**Planned Events/Projects:**

**-Town Forest (TF) Report** – Carissa has been in contact with Mariah at Sinuosity re: wrapping up the work on the UMATR grant. Carissa shared with the MCC the invoices from both Technical Service Providers (TSPs) which have been submitted, as well as the Trail Design document from Sinuosity. There was discussion about the document and the need for some editing before it is finalized, and whether or not a presentation by Sinuosity would be needed. Everyone agreed to submit recommended edits to Carissa, to then be shared with Mariah. Carissa will also check with the Selectboard to determine whether or not a presentation by Mariah of the final Trail Design document would be needed. Lindsey Wight of UMATR will continue to be updated on the status.

**-Develop a Planting and Material Plan (on the Fuller Bridge Rd. Town Land) for Spring 2023; Sourcing/Partners/Grants** – Carissa sketched out a plan which would start with planting on higher ground – ~two acres of fruit trees and another ~ two acres of nut trees. This plan would require 150 fruit stems and 60 nut trees, with the initial ask for 2023. Carissa is checking with Jaiel at 350 Vermont to see if they would be a source. If not, Carissa will explore other food security programs. There was discussion re: possible sources of assistance in planting such as the school, Cold Hollow Career Center, MRBA, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, and/or the Conservation District. All agreed that this plan sounded great.

**-Budget & Proposal for Three Holes Trail Improvement, Historical Marker (?) and Bench** – There was discussion about this proposed project with a target date of 2023, including what kind of bench to consider, access, trail improvements, the idea of a marker, and privacy considerations for abutting property. A budget for the project will be created and presented to the Selectboard.

**- Montgomery Invasives Plan with Hilary Roberts** – Carissa and Hilary Roberts plan to work on this over the winter and will check with Lindsey Wight re: the idea of partnering with MRBA. Any plan would need Selectboard approval. MRBA is having a knotweed bonfire on 11/19 and the MCC will help get the word out about it.

**- Partnering with Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC), Enosburg & Richford Conservation Commissions (ECC & RCC) on a Presentation by Kiley Briggs, Wood Turtle Expert from the Orianna Society –** Awaiting confirmation of the date for 2023.

**Proposed Events/Projects:**

**- Black Falls Farm with Mary Niles –** Planning for 2023. Parma in contact with Mary.

**- BioBlitz TF: Partner Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) (and MES?) –** The Conservation District applied for the grant. The Town would be a partner in the project. Plan is to do this at the TF in 2023.

**- Tree Sale with FCNRCD-** Carissa reported that the tree list is expected to come out earlier than was the case in other years. There was discussion related to this about the MCC's donation of a tree to the MES graduating class of 2023. The idea of an oak or chestnut was raised, but everyone liked the idea of letting the students help with species selection.

**- Mums Sale –** Plan to do this again in September of 2023.

**Proposed with RCC (list of ideas for 2023 shared with MCC by RCC):**

All of the following ideas were well received and piqued everyone's interest in planning 2023 events with RCC. Any additional points of discussion follow each topic, below.

**-Bird Walk: Bridget Butler and/or Woodcock Program –** Everyone really liked the idea of the Woodcock Program. There was also discussion re: learning more about bird-friendly planting. This could be helpful as people choose trees from the tree sale.

**- Responsible Angling with RCC and ECC**

**- Soil Presentation by Carissa**

**- Bat Program with Lindsey Wight** Part of this could be an assessment of bat activity near the bat boxes which have been installed in Town.

**- Pollinators/Monarch Butterflies** Susan B. might have ideas about this because she has a relative who has a strong interest in Monarch butterflies.

**- Mussels Talk on Data from the Missisquoi River**

**- Winter Tree ID**

**- Winter Tracking ID** The idea was raised of perhaps combining this with a Winter Tree ID event (above).

**- Citizen Science Opportunities (including how to use apps such as iNaturalist, Seek, eBird, Merlin)**

Annette Goynes of RCC will be informed of the MCC's interest in coordinating on the above events. Everyone agreed that partnering with the other local CCs is beneficial.

**Additional Discussion:**

**-Floodplain Modeling with FCNRCD on Town Land – Black Falls to Salmon Property –** No new information. Lauren Weston of FCNRCD, along with the Selectboard, applied for a grant and we are still waiting to hear if it will be awarded.

**-Town Land Visit/Discussion – River Conservancy, River Scientist, Lindsey Wight of UMATR –** Still needs to be coordinated. Input from Staci Pomeroy, River Scientist will be key.

**- River Community Grant - Knotweed Control Plan on Town Land: Fall 2022 and Growing Season 2023-** Carissa reported that the grant from UMATR has been awarded, which is much appreciated. UMATR asked for some additional clarification and this will be provided. There was discussion about the implementation of the plan.

**- Town Inventory of Resources –** There was discussion re: the valuable information obtained at the Farmer’s Markets over the summer from community input via discussion with MCC members as well as by marking important resources on the map provided at the Farmer’s Markets. Carissa shared the idea of developing an interactive on-line map where community members could continue to add to the information. Perhaps this could be coordinated with related efforts by Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC). All agreed that this was a great idea.

It should be noted that this is the last scheduled meeting of the MCC for 2022. The next scheduled meeting will be March 1, 2023.

Patrick made a motion, seconded by Sue W., to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth