

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023

The meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Carissa Stein at 5:35 p.m.

Attendance: Joan Hildreth, John Kuryloski, Lynn Locher, Karen Stanley, Carissa Stein, Sue Wilson

Absent: Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Parma Jewett, Matt Paggi

Visitors: Marielle Ambroch

Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda – Lynn raised the issue of the Town's Conservation Fund and the need for further discussion/action re: this.

Welcome Visitor: Marielle visited today's meeting. She remains interested in the work which the MCC does and would like to be involved. Although everyone agrees that it would be great to have her join the MCC, clarification is needed re: the number of Conservation Commission Board members allowed. Although MCC by-laws state that there can be up to 11, the VT State statutes apparently indicate that there can only be up to 9. Sue stated that Charlie Hancock is looking into this and will let us know.

Minutes 9/6/23 – After discussion, Sue made a motion to approve the minutes, John seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously; the 9/6/23 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – No updated report available for this meeting.

Added Discussion:

Conservation Fund- Lynn had suggested adding this topic to the agenda due to the importance of clarifying the status of the Town's Conservation Fund as soon as possible. At the last MCC meeting, Matt had offered to contact Charlie Hancock, Chair of the Selectboard, about the Conservation Fund. However, Matt was unable to attend this meeting. If he does have an update, it was not available at the time of the meeting. After discussion, everyone agreed that, once there is clarification, relevant information will need to be expeditiously provided to the members of the community.

Events/Projects:

Planned:

Town Forest (TF) Trail Update-

Although Matt was unable to attend the meeting, he had shared an update in advance. He contacted three additional contractors re: the TF work. One said that he no longer does this type of work; one focuses only on machinery jobs; one only builds mountain bike trails. Therefore, Matt indicated that there is essentially no change in the status of the Town Forest Trail project. Further discussion tabled until next meeting.

Fruit/Nut Tree Protection – Pick a Date – After discussion, a date/time of **Saturday, 10/28/23 at 10:00 a.m.** was selected. Carissa agreed to make a flyer and suggested that those attending should wear work clothes, mud boots, and work gloves, and bring trimmers for cutting the netting, if possible. Sue will ask Parma if she would be willing to

make pastries and coffee for the event. Sue made a motion to reimburse Parma up to \$30.00 for the food/beverages. John seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finalizing the Knowing Knotweed Project – Carissa reported she had sent in the documentation to UMATR re: the project in order to meet the final requirements for the grant. There was discussion re: the positive impacts of the project, including evidence of native plants growing back where knotweed had been cut back. In addition, all agreed that the brochure which Carissa developed as part of the project is very informative.

Finalizing the Fruit/Nut Grant – Carissa reported that the requirements of the grant will not be fulfilled until the tree protection is in place (scheduled for 10/28/23).

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:

Three Holes Reflection Bench Update-

Susan was not able to attend this meeting. Therefore, there is no update. Tabled until next meeting.

Tracking Collaboration for Montgomery Elementary School (MES) with Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD)- FCNRCD is exploring the possibility of collaborating with the MES on a wildlife tracking workshop for students. If this were to occur, the MCC would have a supportive role. Ideas for possible trackers to involve were discussed (Elliot C., Travis W., Sophie M.). Lynn raised the idea of having available for the students copies of the folding, laminated tracker card which Sophie M. uses. Everyone agreed that this was a great idea. Sophie would need to be asked her thoughts about using copies of the fold-out for this purpose. Sue also mentioned the small packets with various foot/paw prints on them which Parma had made. All agreed that the workshop is a wonderful idea.

The FCNRCD's Receipt of Flood Resilient Communities Funds for Montgomery Flood Resilience and Hazard Mitigation Study – Carissa reported that this grant would be overseen by FCNRCD and the Selectboard, with the MCC providing a supportive role. In total, ~\$116K would go to flood modeling. Of that, up to \$7,350.00 would be designated for project oversight for the FCNRCD. The balance would go to the engineering firm which does the modeling. Carissa said that this study would be the preliminary step in helping to mitigate flooding by providing a data set indicating whether or not additional steps are necessary. Everyone agreed that this sounds like a very worthwhile study.

Joan made a motion, seconded by Lynn, to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth