

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY  
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTMEBER 04, 2024

The meeting, held at the Rec. Center Pavilion, was called to order by Patrick Calecas at 5:35 p.m.

Attendance: Marielle Ambroch, Susan Baker, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Parma Jewett, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi

Absent: Charles Snedikor

Visitors: Kip Potter was welcomed to the meeting and he expressed his interest in being involved with the MCC. All agreed that it would be great to have him become a member of the MCC, and he was in agreement with his nomination being brought to the Selectboard for approval. Lynn offered to initiate the approval process.

Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda – None.

Minutes 07/03/24 – After discussion, Parma made a motion to approve the minutes and Lynn seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The 07/03/24 minutes were approved.

**It should be noted that there was no meeting in August 2024 due to the Flood Resilience meeting being held during the MCC's usual meeting day/time. Therefore, there were no August 2024 minutes.**

Budget/CD Update, Treasurer's Report – Patrick reported that there had been no changes since the July 3, 2024 meeting.

**Events/Projects:**

**Planned:**

**Saturday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – noon - Rain Garden Big Reveal and Swimming Hole Clean-Up at Riverwalk Park - MCC representative(s) -** Patrick and Marielle plan to attend. Joan will likely be there, too.

**Friday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> 5-7 p.m. Ethan Tapper Book Launch "How to Love a Forest" at MCA in collaboration with the MCA, Cold Hollow to Canada and Phoenix Books –** The MCA had invited the MCC to join in this collaboration, and provided an outline of ways in which the MCC could be involved. After discussion, Parma made a motion for the MCC to be involved in this event by helping with on-line promotion, setting up and breaking down at the event, and offering to contribute refreshments. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Joan will let Suzanne Dollois know about the MCC's interest in collaborating on this event.

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Richford Town Hall – Loon Program – co-sponsored with RCC (and potentially other CCs) –** All agreed that this sounds like a wonderful event. The total cost for the program is \$200 and would be split evenly with the CCs co-sponsoring it. After discussion, Parma made a motion to co-sponsor the event, and to authorize up to \$100 for the MCC's share of the cost, recognizing that, if additional CC's join in, each CC's share of the cost would decrease proportionately. Lynn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Flood Resilience Study Project – Date of 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (follow-up to August 2024 meeting) – Date/Time/Location – TBD** – Lauren Weston of the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) will provide information about this once the date is set. It is expected to occur in October of 2024.

**Thursday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> noon – 1:15 p.m. Association of VT Conservation Commissions – Zoom meeting – MCC representative(s)** – After discussion, although everyone agreed that this would be a very worthwhile meeting, it was found that no one was available to attend. Joan agreed to contact the organization to find out if a recording or other information from the meeting would be available to the MCC.

**Proposed/Discussion/Updates:**

**Town Forest (TF) Update-** Matt provided an update re: the TF. On 9/4/24, he, Patrick and Marielle met with Cricket McCusker of TR Fellows Engineering VT at the TF to obtain her input about the bridge which will be needed over the brook. It was reportedly a very productive meeting. Cricket agreed that the proposed site for the bridge is appropriate, and she offered her opinion on various options to consider re: type(s) of bridge and materials. It would need to be a ~35 – 40-foot span and could be constructed of wood and/or metal. Matt said that Cricket will generate a proposal for developing a bridge design. Funding for the design will need to be secured. Joan agreed to contact Lindsey Wight of MRBA/UMATR to inquire about grants which might be available for this purpose. Joan reported that she had contacted Sally Rivard to ask about the experience of putting in a bridge and trails at the Jay Community Recreational Center (JCRC), and Sally had valuable input. She said that the North Woods Stewardship Center's Youth Corps did a great deal of work on both the bridge and the trails at the JCRC. It was agreed that they would be a good resource to consider as plans move forward at the Montgomery TF.

**Elliot Cluba: Fire Skills, Star Stories at Fall Knotweed Bonfire-** Joan reported that Elliot would be interested in doing a fire skills workshop as part of the knotweed bonfire event coordinated by MRBA/UMATR which will be in November. This idea had been discussed with Lindsey Wight of UMATR previously, too. Elliot mentioned that he could incorporate star stories/star navigation information also, if desired, and he would be happy to collaborate with others on this topic. All agreed that this sounded like a great addition to the event. Joan will contact MRBA/UMATR as well as RCC about this.

**MCC Chair Succession Plan** – All acknowledged that Carissa is definitely missed a great deal, and that she had done a wonderful job as Chair of the MCC. Everyone was asked about interest in, and availability for, becoming the Chair, and no one volunteered to take on the role. As such, there was discussion about developing an interim plan which would allow the MCC to productively move forward in fulfilling its mission. Patrick, Lynn and Marielle raised the idea of having co-chairs and/or rotating chairs, and everyone supported this idea. Joan shared a list of duties which Carissa had fulfilled as Chair, and said that she had gone over the list with Carissa for input prior to her departure. Everyone acknowledged that it made sense to review and discuss the list, and that was done. All members present volunteered for various duties, and everyone agreed that the result is what appears to be a workable plan. The following is the list of duties as well as the MCC members who volunteered to assume them:

- Chairing the MCC meetings – rotating/co-chairs, specifics TBD, but started with Patrick at this meeting
- Gmail account and Listserv – Marielle (Marielle will touch base with Carissa in order to complete the transition of account access)
- Agenda for meetings – Joan
- Representation at events – Lynn and/or others for each event (Lynn definitely does not have to do all events. This duty will be shared.)
- Conservation Fund issues – Kip (as soon as he is officially appointed to the MCC)
- Liaison with Selectboard as needed – Lynn and/or Parma
- Mowing contract at Town Land (and dealing with tarp) – Matt and/or Patrick
- Community contact for concerns – Lynn and/or Susan
- Coordination with other CCs/organizations (FCNRCD, MRBA/UMATR, etc.) – Patrick and/or Joan

Lynn made a motion, seconded by Parma, to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth