

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2025

The meeting, held via Zoom, was called to order by Patrick Calecas at 6:11 p.m. It should be noted that the MCC usually does not meet in December, January and February. However, this meeting was called due to the need to address issues which could not wait until the March 2025 meeting.

Attendance: Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, Kip Potter

Absent: Marielle Ambroch, Susan Baker, Matt Paggi (but provided input via e-mail), Charles Snedecor

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None

Visitors: None

Approval of Minutes 11/06/24 – After discussion, Lynn made a motion to approve the minutes; Patrick seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the 11/06/24 minutes.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report – Patrick reported the following: Current CD balance is \$78,017.94. CD matures on 6/16/25. Payment of \$100.00 was reportedly made for the presentation which Elliot Cluba did in October of 2024. After discussion, Patrick offered to speak with Erin, Town Treasurer about the balance of/activity in the MCC account. He also reported that the Town would like the MCC to provide a 2025 budget, and all expressed appreciation for Patrick's willingness to work on that. As a part of the budget, everyone agreed that a reasonable estimate for the cost of 2025 events/presentations would be ~ \$500.00.

Discussion/Updates:

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) - After discussion, all agreed that it would be worthwhile to join this organization. Matt had also e-mailed that he was in favor of the idea. Joan made a motion for the MCC to join the AVCC at the annual membership cost of \$50.00. Lynn seconded, and all present voted in favor of joining.

Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF) application – Kip and Patrick attended the site visit to the proposed Sweet II Project, and they provided an overview of the property/project and their impressions. Kip had also shared with everyone the supporting documents provided by the applicant, in addition to the application itself. After discussion, all in attendance readily agreed that the conservation of this property would be of great benefit to the Town. Matt had shared via e-mail that he concurred, supporting the approval of the application. Patrick made a motion for the MCC to recommend to the Selectboard the approval of the \$5,000.00 award from the CRF to support the Sweet II Project. Kip seconded, and all present voted in favor. Lynn offered to inform the Selectboard of the MCC's decision to support the application. Kip offered to provide Lynn with written information re: reasons for this decision/recommendation to provide to the Selectboard as well. It should be noted that the question was raised of whether or not there might be a

potential conflict of interest re: the vote based on the location of the parcel in question. After careful consideration and discussion, no one present believed that there would be a conflict. Also, the MCC's role is to advise the Selectboard, not to make the final decision.

Town Forest (TF) – Bridge Design/Funding – Matt had indicated in an e-mail that further discussion re: this could wait until the MCC's next meeting because the engineer would likely not be able to return to the site to begin any design work until the spring. All present at the meeting also agreed with tabling the discussion.

Knotweed Project – Grant Application Status – In early December 2024, Kip wrote and submitted a grant to the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) – Small Grants Education and Outreach for a Knotweed Project. He had shared the application with everyone in advance, and provided an overview at the meeting. The project would run for two years, and would include demo sites at the Town Land/Jewett Property. Kip reported that he had also discussed this with Charlie Hancock and Erin, the Treasurer. All agreed that Kip has done a tremendous amount of great work on this, and that it sounds like a very worthwhile project. A decision by LCBP re: applications is expected in February of 2025.

Gathering of Conservation Commissions (Bakersfield, Enosburg, Montgomery Richford), Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA) and Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD), Wednesday, 1/22/25 at 6:30 at Cold Hollow Career Center, Enosburg – At least a couple of MCC members are planning to attend this event. Participants will meet over a potluck dinner to discuss and plan collaborative efforts re: conservation (events, projects, etc.) for the coming year.

NEXT MEETING: It should be noted that the next planned meeting of the MCC is March 5, 2025 at 5:30 at the PSB.

Lynn made a motion, seconded by Kip, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth