

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
PO BOX 356; MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471
802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

The meeting, held at the Public Safety Building (PSB), was called to order by Patrick Calecas at 5:35 p.m.

Attendance: Marielle Ambroch, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Kip Potter

Absent: Charles Snedikor

Additions/Changes to Agenda: Donation from the Montgomery Center for the Arts (MCA); fundraising

Visitors: None

Approval of Minutes 03/12/25 – Lynn made a motion to approve the minutes; Kip seconded. After a brief discussion, all present voted in favor of approving the 03/12/25 minutes. Motion passed.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report – No recent update. As of 01/13/25: CD balance of \$78,017.94, maturing on 6/16/25; checking account balance of \$11,794.22.

Events/Projects – Planned:

Green Up Day (GUD) – May 3rd – Parma informed the MCC that she will be coordinating GUD again this year; she also plans to provide some of her delicious baked goods at the event. Everyone is very appreciative. Marielle will contact Parma to offer support and to learn more about the event's logistics.

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) Tree Sale

Pickup at PSB – May 3rd from 10 – 1 – Patrick and Joan have been in contact with Lauren at FCNRCD about plans, which appear to be all set. Patrick and Matt plan to transport trees to Montgomery on 5/2.

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) – Invasives Event on May 9th – Kip is planning to attend, and has registered for the event.

Free Trees for Montgomery Residents through UVM Program – May 17th 10 – 12 at PSB – All set for now. Joan will be available to receive the trees at the PSB a few days prior to the event. Gwen Kozlowski of the VT Urban & Community Forestry Program is coordinating the event, and will be in touch re: next steps, including promotion and sign-up procedure.

Discussion/Updates:

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) – Patrick plans to complete the AVCC Needs Assessment. In addition, the AVCC Tiny Grants Program awards grants of up to \$700.00; the deadline for application submissions is 4/18/25. The MCC is interested in applying for assistance with funding a number of community workshops led by Elliot Cluba. A list of workshops provided by Elliot was reviewed and, after discussion, all agreed that the following three would be of particular interest:

Reading the Landscape, Natural Navigation, and Bird Language. Joan will contact Elliot for additional information, including costs and possible dates. Once that information is provided, the application process can be initiated.

Town Forest (TF) – Bridge Design/Funding – There was further discussion about the uncertainty of future funding sources for the construction of a bridge. Matt had explored potential options, without much promise at this time. After discussion, it was agreed to put on hold the pursuit of the bridge design for now, and to focus on trail work in the TF. Joan reported on a discussion with Sally Rivard from the Jay Community Recreational Center (JCRC), during which Sally shared about positive experiences doing trail work there with Dusty May of North Woods Stewardship Center (NWSC) and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Matt offered to get in touch with NWSC.

Knotweed Project (KP) – Grant Application Status – Kip reported that the MCC has been selected for the award of a \$15K grant for this project. Everyone expressed appreciation for all of Kip's work on this. He provided an overview of the components of the project and the next steps in the process. That will include setting up a meeting with Patrick, Kip, Erin Kopacz, and Charlie Hancock.

Town Land (TL) – Mowing, etc. – There was discussion about the current status of the TL, including the fruit and nut trees and other plant growth, as well as re: the need for a pre-mowing assessment and mowing preparation. Matt is coordinating with Derek on the mowing. The MCC plans to visit the TL on Saturday, April 26th at 9:00 a.m. to assess, to determine work needed, and to review the KP plans. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have Charlie Hancock there, too, if he is able to attend.

Hazen's Notch Conservation Trust (HNCT) – Patrick had reported that the HNCT is planning to have a table with information about their organization at the PSB on GUD.

MCC Membership Openings – At this time, the MCC has openings for two new members. If there are members of the Montgomery community who are interested in serving on MCC, inquiries are very much welcome. The MCC e-mail address is: MontgomeryConservation@gmail.com

Zoom Account – Patrick reported that he contacted Charlie Hancock about this, and Charlie has provided information which would allow the MCC to utilize the Town's Zoom account. Marielle offered to keep this information with the MCC's e-mail account information.

Logo – After discussion, all agreed that it would be nice to have a MCC logo. In an effort to determine how to proceed, Joan will get in touch with Melissa Haberman of the MCC (Melissa is also an art teacher), and Lynn will contact Sandy Alexander at MES.

MCA Donation to the MCC – It was reported that the MCA will be sending a check to the MCC with the money raised by the Play Every Town event held at the MCA on 3/1/25. Everyone expressed deep appreciation for the generosity of the musician, David Feurzeig and of the MCA members, and to their commitment to the environment and conservation.

Fundraising/Membership – Tabled until next meeting.

Matt made a motion, seconded by Lynn, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth