

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
PO BOX 356; MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471
802-326-4719 <http://www.montgomeryvt.us>
CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025

The meeting, held at the Public Safety Building (PSB), was called to order by Patrick Calecas at 5:39 p.m.

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

Absent: Marielle Ambroch, Cliff Loos, Charles Snedikor

Visitor(s)/New Member: No visitors; Cliff Loos was officially appointed to the MCC by the Selectboard in June of 2025.

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes 06/04/25 – Matt made a motion to approve the minutes; Lynn seconded. After a brief discussion, all present voted in favor of approving the 06/04/25 minutes. Motion passed. (It should be noted that there was **no official meeting on 07/02/25 as scheduled due to lack of a quorum.**)

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report – Patrick provided a spreadsheet detailing the MCC's financial status as of 06/30/25. All agreed that the spreadsheet is a very helpful format for the information. CD balance: \$79,131.92; MCC General Fund: \$12,273.32. Patrick also plans to inquire about re: the current Conservation Reserve Fund balance. (Please see spreadsheet attached to the minutes.)

Events/Projects – Planned:

"Reading the Landscape" – Wednesday, August 20th, 5 – 7 p.m. at the Lochers' land –

There was discussion/planning re: various ways to promote the event, including disseminating info via: Listserv (Marielle), social media (Joan/Lynn), Front Porch Forum (Patrick), posters around Town (Kip, others). As co-sponsors, the Bakersfield, Enosburg, and Richford Conservation Commissions (CCs) are promoting the event as well. Also, Vermont Coverts, CHC and MRBA/UMATR have been helping to spread the word, which is very much appreciated.

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) Needs Assessment – Tabled

Vermont Conservation Plan Regional Session – Report from July meeting – Kip – Kip attended a recent meeting in Burke sponsored by the State of VT and the AVCC to discuss Act 59 and the Vermont Conservation Plan which proposes a goal of conserving 30% of the land in VT by 2030, and 50% by 2050 ("30 by 30 and 50 by 50"), and he provided a summary of what was discussed as follows. There was a focus on prioritizing needs in various parts of the state, and identifying gaps. Three working groups are being formed in order to obtain input re: 1. Conservation in communities; 2. Finalizing the Conservation Plan, and; 3. Conservation capacity, including related funding issues.

Public meetings will also be held. Kip said that if anyone were interested in joining any of the groups, new members would be welcome.

Town Forest (TF) – Bridge Design/Funding – Tabled until spring.

Town Land (TL) – Mowing, Status, etc. – There was a discussion re: the current status of the land and its future. **Status of Mowing** – Derek has been mowing the paths as planned. **Volunteer Day** – On 8/2, a number of members of the MCC went to the property with the intention of locating and clearing around the fruit and nut trees as needed. The amount of growth of goldenrod and other plants was incredible, and it was very difficult to see many trees despite there being stakes which had been installed in the spring to mark the trees. The various other plants were thick and were higher than the stakes. Time was spent brush hogging and clearing around trees which were identified, but many of the trees were dead and much work remains to be done. **Long-Term Management Plan for TL** – It had previously been decided that having a long-term plan for the property would be crucial, and the current state of the land makes that need even more clear. The MCC planned to work on such a plan at this meeting, utilizing a Vermont Land Trust (VLT) template. However, after discussion, there was recognition that it would be beneficial to seek professional help in providing direction and facilitating the process. Joan agreed to contact Dorothy Kinney-Landis and Lauren Weston from FCNRCD to see if they could be of assistance in this capacity or, if not, if they would have suggestions. The hope is to have someone come to the September MCC meeting, if possible.

Knotweed Project (KP) – Grant Update – No current update.

MCC Membership Updates/Opening – Cliff Loos is now officially a member of the MCC. An additional opening remains. ***If there are members of the Montgomery community who would be interested in serving on the MCC, inquiries are very much welcome. The MCC e-mail address is: MontgomeryConservation@gmail.com***

Logo Design Project– The winning design, chosen by the MES students, is the one which was submitted by now 8th grader Maverick Sylvester. All agreed that he did a great job and that it would be nice to honor his accomplishment in some way. A big thank you to Maverick! Lynn offered to contact Sandy Alexander for ideas. Lynn and Patrick also offered to check into places which could produce stickers of the logo, similar in size to those which CHC has for its logo. The logo can also be used on flyers, documents, etc.

Tree and Plaque for MES 2025 Graduating Class – The tree was planted in June by the graduating class, and the plaque arrived soon afterward and was placed on the tree. However, Joan reported that, unfortunately, the tree appears to be dead now. All agreed that the tree should be replaced, but that this should probably wait until the fall to give the new tree the best chance of thriving. Lynn offered to contact Sandy Alexander about the situation.

Farmer's Market – Patrick and Kip reported that all went well on 7/26. There was discussion about updating materials to have available at the Farmer's Market in the future, including an overview of the MCC's roles/responsibilities and information about the Town Land. The MCC plans to have a table at the market again on both 8/23 and 9/27. Lynn plans to be there on 8/23 and Matt hopes to join her that day as well.

Raffle – Patrick and Kip sold raffle tickets at the Farmer’s Market and reported that there was good interest. The items being raffled are a large bat house, a glossy photo print of Jay Peak, and another smaller print of Jay Peak. Tickets are being sold as follows: 3 for \$5.00 or 7 for \$10.00. The drawing will be held at the MCC’s meeting on 10/01/25.

Ideas for Future MCC Projects –

Bird Houses for TL –Tabled

Trail Camera(s) for TF/TL – Tabled

Ideas for Future MCC Events –

Elliot Cluba’s offer of a free workshop in the fall - Tabled

Showing of the film “The Celebration: Exploring Vermont’s Wild and Scenic Rivers” – All agreed that this would be a great event to have in the fall, soon after foliage season winds down. The idea of doing this as a collaborative event with ECC, RCC and UMATR, and perhaps the MCA, was raised. Showing the film in Montgomery at either the Grange or the MCA was proposed. Joan mentioned that the RCC had raised the idea of having a showing at the Richford High School and including a short walk from there to the river so that attendees could see a project which had been completed thanks to UMATR funding. Although everyone liked the RCC’s idea, the possibility of having multiple showings, perhaps one in each Town, was raised in order to draw more attendees from each Town. Joan agreed to check in with the other CCs and the other interested organizations re: their thoughts.

Lynn made a motion, seconded by Kip, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth

MCC GENERAL FUND - FY 2025				
DATE	DESCRIPTION		DEBITS	CREDITS
1-Jul-23	Beginning Balance	\$ 12,394.32		
1-Jul-23	Approved Budget			
11/20/2024	Speaker Exp. (E. Cluba)			\$ 100.00
12/15/2024	Mowing (Lutz's)			\$ 750.00
12/19/2024	Donation		\$ 250.00	
4/25/2025	MCA Fundraiser		\$ 479.00	
	TOTALS:	\$ 12,394.32	\$ 729.00	\$ 850.00
30-Jun-24	Ending Balance	\$ 12,273.32		
MCC SAVINGS / CD				
1-Jul-22	Beginning Balance	\$ 75,116.08		
	Interest 7/22-6/23		\$ 22.53	
30-Jun-23	Ending Balance	\$ 75,138.61		
	Interest 07/23-06/24		\$ 1,714.69	
30-Jun-24	Ending Balance	\$ 76,853.30		
	Interest 07/24-06/25		\$ 2,278.62	
30-Jun-25	Ending Balance	\$ 79,131.92		
(1) Matures on 12/16/2025. Current Rate = 3.00%; APY 3.05%				
TOTAL MCC FUND BALANCES @ 06/30/2024				\$ 89,126.62
CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND				
BALANCE at June 30, 2025 = ????????				