

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
PO BOX 356
MONTGOMERY CENTER, VT 05471
802-326-4719

<http://www.montgomeryvt.us>

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

The meeting was held at the Public Safety Building (PSB) and was called to order by Kip Potter at 5:32 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Marielle Ambroch, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, Cliff Loos, Matt Paggi, and Kip Potter

Absent: Patrick Calecas and Charles Snedikor

Visitors: None

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes 10/01/25: Lynn made a motion to approve the minutes; Matt seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the 10/01/25 minutes. Motion passed.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report: Patrick was unable to attend the meeting, but had conveyed the following info re: recent/expected changes to the MCC account: \$200 in raffle proceeds deposited and payment of invoice for Town Land mowing. Lynn also reported that she had received the \$25 reimbursement for having paid for the gift card for the winner of the logo contest. No additional updates.

Events/Projects

Recent:

a. FCNRCD Flood Resilience Meeting – Wednesday Oct. 8, 2025 - Joan, Patrick, and Kip attended along with Charlie Hancock and FCNRCD staff members Mel Auffredou and Kerry Brosan, as well as Ellen Fox who is both the Zoning Administrator for the Town of Montgomery and an MRBA representative. Kip and Joan reported that, at the meeting, there was a review of the various Town flood resilience projects which had been proposed, followed by a discussion of criteria for determining which one(s) to move forward on and the timing. It was agreed by all at the 10/8 meeting that the proposal which involves the Town Land would be the first to focus on, followed by three others which could likely be considered next.

b. Regional AVCC Meeting in Hardwick on Oct. 11, 2025 – Kip attended the meeting and provided an overview as follows. There were 29 CCs represented and about 50 people in attendance. The various presentations included the following topics/speakers: Vermont River Conservancy; Northern Rivers Land Trust; Natural Resources Inventories; Culverts and Fish Passages; Act 121 VT Flood Safety Act (Zoom meeting about this on 11/13/25); CC Advisory Members Initiative. All agreed that it sounded like a very worthwhile and inspiring meeting.

Planned: None currently

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:

a. Town Land (TL):

- i. Report on visit to TL on 10/14/25 – Several MCC members met with Charlie Hancock and Dorothy Kinney-Landis from FCNRCD to assess the current status of the land and to determine next steps. It was agreed to wait until spring to identify surviving fruit and nut trees and to brush hog the rest of the area. Matt raised the idea of replacing some of the dead trees with new ones once we know the status of all of the trees in the spring. All agreed that this was a good idea. Matt made a motion, seconded by Cliff, to spend up to \$500 for new fruit/nut trees in the spring of 2026. After discussion, all voted in favor and the motion passed. It should also be noted that FCNRCD is applying for a grant which would allow them to do the management plan for the TL.
- ii. Report on meeting at the TL on 10/27/25 with Remy Crettol from the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) – Kip and Marielle had attended the meeting with Remy and reported that it was very productive. Remy was quite positive about the idea of conserving at least a portion of the TL as well as portions of other nearby Town parcels. After discussion at this meeting, it was agreed that it would be helpful to invite Remy to attend a MCC meeting in the spring in order to further discuss what conservation of the land would entail and to provide an opportunity for Q&A.
- iii. Report on Joan's visit to Brownway in Enosburg – Joan had visited Brownway recently and took photos which were shared with MCC members. She expressed her opinion that some of the features there could potentially be included at the TL (e.g., kiosk with information such as history of the land and map, bench[es], bird house[s], story boards geared to children).
- iv. Status of availability of FCNRCD for developing L-T Management Plan – See above – “a. Town Land i.”
- v. Status of provision of information to Dorothy at FCNRC (prior TL plans, knotweed grant) - Will be provided to her as needed/requested.

b. Town Forest (TF) –

- i. UMATR Grant – Application has been submitted for cost of bridge design. The award/denial notifications are expected in December of 2025.
- ii. Recreational Trails Program Grant – The plan is to apply for funds for bridge design and construction. The pre-application is due at the end of November, 2025. Matt, Kip and Joan will work on this.
- iii. FCNRCD – Possibility of Wildlife Tracking Program with MES – FCNRCD is applying for a grant and will keep the MCC posted. All agreed that this would be a very worthwhile program.

c. Knotweed Project – Kip is working on getting the contract signed. Next steps in the spring of 2026.

d. MCC Membership – Ideas to enlist new members include:

- (i) Send a message on the MCC Listserv
- (ii) Post a notice on the MCC Facebook page
- (iii) Posters on community bulletin boards.

All agreed to hold off on these efforts until spring given the winter break from MCC meetings.

e. Logo Design Project – Lynn presented the \$25 gift card award to the winner, Maverick Sylvester, and reported that he was pleased. Lynn also received the digital image of the logo

from Sandy so that printing of stickers and the brochure could move forward. Marielle agreed to contact Sandy to see if the color of the logo could be changed from orange to green before any printing occurs, though.

f. Tree for MES 2025 Graduating Class – Replacement of tree – Patrick searched for a Montmorency Cherry tree but found none available at this time. All agreed that this would be revisited in the spring of 2026 when conditions would be more favorable for planting.

g. Brochure for MCC – Awaiting a high-resolution JPEG with correct color before printing.

h. Ideas for Future MCC Projects/Events

(i) **Projects** – The following have been tabled until 2026:

- bird houses for TL – assess need, making and installing – collaboration with others.
- game cameras at TF/TL to capture wildlife activity – idea of applying for AVCC grant.

(ii) **Events** –

The following have been tabled until 2026:

- Elliot's offer of free workshop
- Showing of the film "The Celebration: Exploring Vermont's Wild and Scenic Rivers"

New proposal:

-Impact of Rodenticides on Wildlife in the Ecosystem - Presentation by VINS – The RCC is proposing that the RCC, MCC, and ECC co-sponsor this event, which would include live raptors, this winter. The total cost would be \$650 and would be evenly split 3 ways. Matt made a motion for the MCC to co-sponsor the event and to pay 1/3 of the total cost ($\$650/3 = \216.67); motion seconded by Lynn. After discussion, five of the MCC members present voted in favor and one abstained. Motion passed. Joan will let RCC and ECC know the MCC's decision and will coordinate with them on the plans for the presentation – date, location, promotion, etc.

It should be noted that the MCC does not plan to meet in December, January or February. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 5:30 at the Public Safety Building.

Matt made a motion, seconded by Cliff, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth