

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

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

Attendance:

Present: Marielle Ambroch, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Cliff Loos, and Kip Potter

Absent: Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, and Charles Snedikor

Visitors: None

Additions/Changes to Agenda: Vermont Conservation Plan meeting 3/17/26

Approval of Minutes 11/05/25: Marielle made a motion to approve the minutes; Cliff seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the 11/05/25 minutes. Motion passed.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report: Patrick developed and provided a document entitled "MCC General Fund Budget – 2027" for review and discussion, as well as the MCC Treasurer's Report which had been included in the Annual Town Report distributed prior to the 3/03/26 Town Meeting. (Please see attached document.)

Events/Projects

Recent:

a. Rodenticide Presentation with VINS co-sponsored by MCC, RCC and ECC – 2/15/26 –
Joan reported that the presentation was interesting and informative, but attendance was quite low.

b. Annual Gathering of Local Conservation Groups 1/21/26 – Joan reported that it was a productive as well as enjoyable meeting; it was helpful to hear what the other groups are doing and to share ideas which can aid in future planning. Kerry Brosnan from FCNRCD had also taken notes at the meeting, and those had been shared with the members of the MCC. It was agreed that this annual event is very worthwhile.

Planned:

- a. Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) Tree Sale**
5/2/26 All set for pick-up site at PSB in Montgomery
- b. Green Up Day 5/2/26**

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:

a. Town Land (TL):

- i. Report on TL Flood Resilience Project - Meeting Held at TL on 2/23/26 – Kip and Joan had attended the meeting and reported that Matt, FCNRCD staff members, SLR engineers, a VTrans representative, and Charlie Hancock were also in attendance. Kip and Joan provided an overview/summary of the meeting, sharing information about the various proposed project steps, funding, and timeline; discussion followed. It was also noted that staff from FCNRCD plan to attend the 4/6/26 meeting of the Selectboard in order to present information about the proposed project, answer questions, and engage in relevant discussion.
- ii. Status Update - Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) – Awaiting additional information/response from VRC. FCNRCD has been in contact with VRC as well. (Idea of inviting Remy Crettol 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 had been raised at the 11/5/25 MCC meeting).
- iii. Status Update - L-T Management Plan – Grant application was submitted; awaiting response.
- iv. Selection of Trees to Order from FCNRCD Tree Sale – List of available trees was reviewed and selections were made. Joan will forward the list to Lauren Weston at FCNRCD.
- v. Knotweed Project Update – Kip provided, and reviewed, a draft of the Demonstration Project document, and there was opportunity for questions and discussion. Additionally, he reported that the Lake Champlain Basin Program has approved the draft, but approval from the EPA has not yet been received. The hope is that this will occur within the next month to 45 days. Actual work on the project cannot begin prior to EPA approval.

b. Town Forest (TF) –

- i. UMATR Grant – The Town/MCC has been awarded \$4,000.00 to be utilized to pay for the engineered design of the bridge to be constructed over the brook in the TF. Matt has been in contact with the engineer who will be completing the design. He was unable to attend this meeting. Further discussion tabled until the April meeting.
- ii. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant – The Town/MCC was invited to submit a full application for the grant after having completed the pre-application process in November of 2025. The full application was submitted on the deadline of 2/1/26. News of awards/denials is expected sometime this month. The application was for the cost of the bridge construction, trail work, a parking area, signage and benches.
- iii. FCNRCD – Possibility of Wildlife Tracking Program with MES – Tabled for now.
- iv. Idea of possible bird habitat project through Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC)/Audubon – Tabled until further information re: details is obtained from Charlie Hancock.

c. MCC Board Membership – Openings remain on the Board at this time. Kip reported that he knows someone who might be interested and that person will be invited to attend a meeting. Joan mentioned another possibility as well. Any members of the Montgomery community who might be interested in joining should please feel free to contact any current member of the MCC and/or e-mail: MontgomeryConservation@gmail.com

d. Logo Design Project – We do have a high-resolution JPEG with the logo in orange. Marielle offered to follow up to see if the color could be changed from orange to green before any printing of stickers and brochures occurs.

e. Tree for MES 2025 Graduating Class – Cliff offered to replace the tree which died with one of his cherry trees. Everyone appreciated this offer and would like to take him up on it. The replacement would occur in the spring when the conditions are favorable for transplanting.

f. Brochure for MCC – Please see above “e. Logo Design Project.”

g. Ideas for Future MCC Projects/Events

(i) Projects –

-bird houses for TL – assess need, making and installing. Tabled for now

-game cameras at TF/TL to capture wildlife activity – Tabled for now

(ii) Proposed Event –

Book Review and Panel Discussion – The RCC has proposed the idea of asking interested people to read a particular book and then have a presentation and panel discussion with various local community members to focus on issues raised in the book. Although all agreed that it was a nice idea, the decision by the MCC was to not have involvement in this particular event. Joan will let the RCC know.

Addition to Agenda – Vermont Conservation Plan – Kerry Brosnan from FCNRCD had reached out to the MCC to say that FCNRCD will be hosting a series of listening sessions (in person and via Zoom) to allow members of the community to review the draft of the plan and to provide input. There will be a session on Tuesday, March 17th from 5 to 7 p.m. After discussion, Patrick agreed to let Kerry know that this date/time sounded good, as many members of the MCC as possible would plan to attend.

Cliff made a motion, seconded by Marielle, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth