

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

The meeting was held at the Public Safety Building (PSB) and was called to order by Patrick Calecas at 5:31 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Kip Potter, and James Wall

Absent: Marielle Ambroch, Cliff Loos, and Charles Snedikor

Visitors: None

New MCC Member: James Wall's appointment to the MCC was approved by the Selectboard; everyone welcomed him.

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes 05/06/26: Lynn made a motion to approve the minutes; Kip seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the 05/06/26 minutes. Motion passed.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report: No update. Patrick plans to check with Erin about the date the CD comes due.

Events/Projects:

Recent:

- Town Land – tree planting 5/9/26; FCNRCD/MES event 5/22/26 – both went well

Planned:

- Town Forest – meeting with Charlie Hancock 6/5/26 at 10:00 a.m. re: bird habitat project
- Town Forest and possibly Town Land afterward – meeting with Audubon re: birds and their habitat 6/19/26 at 1:00 p.m.

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:

a. Town Land (TL):

i. Status Update - Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) – potential project– Remy Crettol of VRC will likely attend the Selectboard meeting on 6/15/26 to present the project proposal, answer questions, and engage in discussion. If the Selectboard agrees, they would then be asked to write a letter of commitment re: the project. As noted previously, the appraisal on the parcel should be completed by July 2026.

ii. Status Update - L-T Management Plan – After discussion, it was agreed that Joan would contact Dorothy Kinney-Landis of FCNRCD to inquire about the next steps in the process and to seek clarification re: the information needed from the MCC to move forward.

iii. Mowing Plan, Care of Trees - Update - Kip and James had recently visited the TL and reported that most of the trees appear to be doing well, with a couple of exceptions. Knotweed is growing and spreading rapidly, though. After discussion, it was agreed that there should be a knotweed pulling day, at which time additional trimming and weeding could also be done. That

is scheduled for Wednesday, 6/24/26 at 4:00 p.m. In addition, there was discussion about the mowing plans. Matt agreed to talk with Derek about plans and will ask about cost estimates.

iv. Community Tree Fund Grant – plans for fall planting There was discussion about fall being the best time to plant the additional trees, and ideas were raised re: possible sources for the trees. James, Kip and Patrick all offered to check with different nurseries about the possibility of pre-ordering trees for the fall.

v. Knotweed Project Update – Kip reported that there have been no recent changes re: the status of the project. He is seeking an extension for it to next year.

vi. Flood Resilience Project – Town Land - Update – Joan agreed to check with Dorothy Kinney-Landis about any updates re: the boundaries of the proposed soil removal for the project.

vii. Purchase of Stakes, Flagging, Mulch, etc. for Trees at TL – reimbursement of costs – Those members who have purchased and picked up these items were encouraged to submit receipts for reimbursement if they had not already done so.

b. Town Forest (TF) –

i. UMATR Grant – Bridge Design – Matt plans to contact the engineer re: the status of the design.

ii. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant – The Grant Agreement has not yet been finalized. Matt, Kip, Patrick, and Joan provided an overview of the draft Grant Agreement review process. There was also discussion re: contacting local contractors who might be willing/able to assist with the trail/bridge project.

c. **MCC Board Membership - Update** – James Wall was officially appointed to the Board by the Selectboard. For anyone seeking information re: Board membership, please feel free to contact any current member of the MCC and/or e-mail: MontgomeryConservation@gmail.com Please note that visitors are always welcome to attend meetings as well.

d. **Logo Design Project** – Kip reported that he had ordered, and received, 100 - 4" diameter waterproof decals of the new MCC logo. There was some discussion about where/how to distribute them.

e. **Brochure for MCC - Update, Printing, Distribution** - Kip offered to work on some edits to the current brochure and then share the draft with the rest of the MCC for any additional input.

f. **Replacement Tree for MES 2025 Graduating Class** – Cliff was planning to coordinate with Sandy Alexander at the MES re: this, but he was unable to attend this meeting. No update.

g. **Tree for MES 2026 Graduating Class** – Marielle has coordinated with the MES re: plans for this. She was unable to attend this meeting, but had reported that the students decided on a weeping willow tree and the following quote: "How big would you dream if you knew you couldn't fail?" Patrick picked up the tree which will be planted the morning of 6/9/26. Marielle will provide everyone with details re: the specific time. Patrick reported that the cost of the tree was \$50, thanks to a generous discount provided by Phil at Beaver Meadow Nursery. There is no plaque yet; it will have to be added after the planting. Lynn plans to look into options for the plaque. After discussion, Joan made a motion, seconded by Matt, to authorize spending up to \$125.00 for the combined cost of the tree and the plaque. All present voted in favor; the motion passed.

h. **Farmer's Market – dates, plans** – The MCC plans to be present at the Market: July 18, August 15, and September 19th. Patrick plans to let Patty Perl know the dates. There was discussion re: the idea of having a raffle again this year and all agreed that would be great. Patrick offered to

donate another bat box and there was discussion about approaching a local business to ask about the donation of a gift certificate. Lynn offered to check with a local photographer about a donation as well.

Lynn made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth