

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2026

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

Attendance:

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

Absent: Marielle Ambroch and Charles Snedecor

Visitors Welcomed: Lindsey Wight and Ellen Fox, Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA); Dorothy Abraham, Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD); Silas Rainville, VT Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation (FPR) (Please note – the topics with an * listed below were discussed first in order to accommodate visitors' schedules.)

Additions/Changes to Agenda: Potential clean-up of Avery Gore

Approval of Minutes 06/03/26: Cliff made a motion to approve the minutes; Lynn seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the 06/03/26 minutes. Motion passed.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report: Patrick reported that the current balance in the available cash account is \$9,890.27. CD balance is \$81,538.79. CD was just renewed and has 6-month term, renewable again 12/16/26.

***Forest Road Assessment Tool** – Silas Rainville from FPR provided an overview of a program which utilizes a specific survey assessment tool to determine whether or not eroded forest roads meet the criteria for use of Clean Water funds for clean-up/repair. Lindsey Wight and Ellen Fox from MRBA have also been involved in learning to use the tool, and they are interested in identifying appropriate roads within the Missisquoi River Basin watershed for assessment. After discussion, all agreed that this sounded like a very beneficial program, and that an abandoned forest road which lies within the Town Forest (TF) would be well worth assessing. The MCC will contact Silas, Lindsey and Ellen soon to set up a field trip to the TF for this purpose.

***Town Land (TL) – L-T Management Plan** – Dorothy Abraham from FCNRCD shared a draft management plan template for the MCC's review, and she suggested that the initial focus should be on the "Management Goals and Objectives" section of it. She also provided a draft of proposed language for that section. All agreed that this was a very helpful start. The task of reviewing each of the proposed goals in more depth was then divided up among MCC members. The plan is for everyone to complete the assigned task(s) prior to the next MCC meeting, at which time everyone's input will be reviewed and discussed. The expected result is a set of clearly defined draft goals. Dorothy also plans to work on the inventory and mapping.

Events/Projects:

Recent:

- Town Forest (TF)– Bird Habitat Improvement Project – Matt and Joan reported that the meeting at TF with Charlie Hancock did occur on 6/5/26, and that the project is proceeding.
- Tree Planting in honor of MES Class of 2026 on 6/9/26 – Lynn reported that it went well.
- Town Land (TL) knotweed pulling on 6/24/26 – Patrick, Kip and Matt reported that the knotweed continues to thrive and spread, and they suggested that knotweed management should be a key component of the LT Mgmt. Plan for the TL. Kip is exploring the possibility of spraying the knotweed, and Patrick is checking with a consulting forester for input as well.

Planned:

- TF and possibly TL afterward – meeting with Audubon re: birds and their habitat – was planned for 6/19/26 but had to be rescheduled. Date TBD.

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:

a. Town Land (TL):

- Status Update - Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) – potential project– Lynn reported that Remy Crettol of VRC attended the Selectboard meeting on 6/15/26 and presented the project proposal, answered questions, and engaged in discussion. The Selectboard then agreed to write a letter of commitment re: the project, and this has been done. As noted previously, it was expected that the appraisal on the parcel would be completed by July 2026.
- * Status Update - L-T Management Plan – See above section: ***Town Land (TL) – L-T...**
- Mowing Plan, Care of Trees - Update – Matt reported that Derek is mowing once a month. Trees have not needed watering due to all of the rain.
- Community Tree Fund Grant – plans for fall planting - Kip, Patrick and James have been checking into possible sources for the purchase of trees in the fall. There was discussion about there being less availability then than in the spring, but the terms of the grant require planting by the fall of 2026.
- Knotweed Project Update – Kip reported that he has been working on obtaining approval for modifications to project requirements.
- Flood Resilience Project – Town Land - Update – No update. Dorothy Abraham had indicated that Mel Auffredou of FCNRCD would be the MCC's contact for questions/info re: this project.

b. Town Forest (TF) –

- UMATR Grant – Bridge Design – Matt reported that the design is expected to be completed later this summer.
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant – The Grant Agreement has been finalized. The next step related to the project is the Archaeological Review Assessment (ARA).

c. Logo Design Project – Kip brought the new logo stickers to the meeting and all agreed that they look great. There was discussion about their distribution, including at the Farmer's Market.

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

e. Replacement Tree for MES 2025 Graduating Class – Cliff reported that he still plans to provide and plant a replacement tree, but that this has not yet happened.

f. Tree Plaque for MES 2026 Graduating Class Tree – The plaque with the quote selected by the students, “How big would you dream if you knew you couldn’t fail?” still needs to be ordered.

g. Farmer’s Market – dates, plans – The MCC plans to be present at the Farmer’s Market: July 18, August 15, and September 19th. Lynn reported that Phil from Beaver Meadow has generously donated a gift certificate for the raffle.

Addition to Agenda - Lynn had raised the idea of having an Avery Gore clean-up. Due to time/length of meeting, this was tabled until the next meeting.

Lynn made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth