

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 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: Marielle Ambroch, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Matt Paggi, Kip Potter

Absent: Lynn Locher, Cliff Loos, Charles Snedikor, James Wall

Visitors: None

Additions/Changes to Agenda: Involvement in proposed collaborative project

Approval of Minutes 07/01/26: Marielle made a motion to approve the minutes; Matt seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the 07/01/26 minutes. Motion passed.

Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report: No update

Events/Projects:

Recent:

- Farmer's Market – 7/18/26 – Patrick reported that community attendance was limited, likely because of the weather that day. He, Kip, Lynn and Joan were present at the MCC booth.
- Cold Hollow to Canada (CHC) Social – 7/21/26 – Kip, Lynn, and Joan attended; the MCC had a booth there. The event was well attended and very enjoyable.

Planned:

- Audubon visit to Town Forest and maybe Town Land re: birds and their habitat – This had been planned for June but had to be rescheduled. Date still TBD.

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:

a. Town Land (TL):

i. Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) – potential project– No update

ii. L-T Management Plan – There was a review of everyone's "homework" from the last MCC meeting. This focused on the proposed goals for the "Management Goals and Objectives" section of the plan. All agreed that each person's input was very good, and some additional ideas were raised during the discussion. All agreed to send their documents to Joan, and she will then forward them to Dorothy Abraham of Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) for her review and incorporation into the plan. Dorothy had also shared prior to this meeting that she has been working on some of the natural resources inventory sections of the management plan, and hopes to send out a draft in the coming week for everyone's review. She has been invited to the September meeting and plans to attend.

- iii. Mowing Plan, Care of Trees - Update – Matt reported that Derek continues with the regular mowing. Matt also plans to check with him about plans for the more extensive fall mowing.
- iv. Community Tree Fund Grant – plans for fall planting – No update
- v. Knotweed, Including Project Update – Kip reported that he has been working with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) to develop a revised project QA plan in an effort to obtain needed approval. In addition, Kip and Patrick are both looking into possible contractors for the spraying of knotweed. This would need to occur at the appropriate time of year/growth stage.
- vi. Flood Resilience Project – Town Land - Update – No update. Mel Auffredou of FCNRCD is the MCC's contact for questions/info re: this project.

b. Town Forest (TF) –

- i. UMATR Grant – Bridge Design – Matt plans to check with the engineer, Krick McCusker, on the status of the design which is expected to be completed sometime this month.
- ii. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant – The next key step related to the project is the Archaeological Review Assessment (ARA). The process, as well as a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) related the ARA, were reviewed. All agreed that proceeding with the RFP as soon as possible is important. Joan agreed to work on finalizing the RFP and then send it out. In addition, once the bridge design has been completed, it was agreed that an MCC working group should meet ASAP to focus on the plans for the TF project which is being funded by the RTP grant.
- iii. Forest Roads Assessment – Kip contacted Silas Rainville of VT Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation (FPR) re: possible field trip dates. Of the proposed options, MCC members suggested the 8/13/26 date. Kip will get back to Silas, and once the date is confirmed, Lindsey Wight and Ellen Fox of MRBA will be invited to join the visit as well.

c. MCC Logo Stickers - Distribution – The stickers have been made available at the PSB, the Farmer's Market, and at the school.

d. Brochure for MCC - Update, Printing, Distribution – Kip added the logo to the brochure. All agreed that the brochure looks great as it is now, and that no further revisions are needed at this time. Patrick offered to print additional copies to hand out at the Farmer's Market and anywhere else which would be appropriate.

e. Replacement Tree for MES 2025 Graduating Class – No update.

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?" was installed.

g. Farmer's Market – dates, plans – The MCC plans to be present at the Farmer's Market again on August 15th and September 19th. Patrick, Kip, Lynn and Marielle plan to be there on 8/15. Raffle tickets for the bat box and the Beaver Meadow gift certificate will be sold there.

Addition to Agenda – Lauren Weston of FCNRCD had inquired about the MCC's interest in being involved in a project which would document the history of the formation of conservation commissions and other related organizations in Franklin County, VT. After discussion, all agreed that this sounded very worthwhile. Joan will inform Lauren of the MCC's interest.

Marielle made a motion, seconded by Matt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth