TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (MCC) MEETING (unapproved draft)
WEDNESDAY, November 4, 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: Marielle Ambroch, Patrick Calecas, Joan Hildreth, Lynn Locher, Matt Paggi, Kip Potter, James Wall
Absent: Cliff Loos, Charles Snedicor
Visitors: None
Additions/Changes to Agenda: Strategic Wood Additions (SWA) assessment at Town Forest; newsletter idea; Krusch Preserve information
Approval of Minutes 10/07/26: Marielle made a motion to approve the minutes; Kip seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the 10/07/26 minutes. Motion passed.
Budget/CD Update/Treasurer's Report: No update – Patrick plans to coordinate with the new Town Treasurer, Genevieve Lodal-Guild, to review pertinent budget issues.

Events/Projects:
Recent:

- Community Tree Fund Grant – Tree Planting Day – 10/18/26 – It went well. Sixteen new trees were purchased and planted, mulch was applied, and fencing was installed. Marielle's parents helped and everyone was appreciative of their assistance. Kip mapped the new trees as well as existing ones.
- Town Forest – Flagging/Assessment re: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant – 10/24/26 – Some MCC members, as well as additional volunteers, utilized flagging to more clearly delineate the walking trail and bridge access trail. Plans were also clarified re: the parking area construction, access to the bridge site for construction, and access for needed materials.

Planned:

- Audubon visit to TF and maybe JTL – Tabled until 2027

Proposed/Discussion/Updates:
Jewett Town Land (JTL)

- Vermont River Conservancy Project – The sale of the parcel may be delayed while discussions regarding the appraisal & the purchase price continue. Patrick plans to talk with Charlie Hancock re: this, and to ask if there is anything the MCC could do which would be helpful in supporting the project moving forward.
- L-T Management Plan – No update

- Mowing Plan, Status/Care of Trees Update – Trees are currently dormant but Kip has been checking on them regularly and has mapped their locations. There was discussion about transplanting some of the older trees to more preferable locations within the orchard in the spring. Mowing next year is expected to occur according to the plan discussed with Derek Saborowski at the October 2026 MCC meeting.
- Community Tree Fund Grant – On 10/18/26, the 16 new trees purchased with funds from the grant were planted and mulch was applied. In addition, protective fencing was installed around trees. The project report was submitted to the grant administrator on 10/28/26, and the expense report will be submitted on 11/05/26. After that, documentation will be complete, and reimbursement of allowable expenses can occur. Kip has been monitoring the status of the trees and reported that they all appear to be doing well.
- Flood Resilience Project – No update

Town Forest

- UMATR Grant – bridge design – The design was completed and forwarded to Lindsey Wight of UMATR, along with a project report. We have been notified that the final award letter and check for the remaining balance of the award will be issued shortly. It should also be noted that the design was forwarded to VT Forest Parks and Recreation (FPR), administrator for the RTP grant, and it has been approved.
- RTP Grant update – The Archaeological Resources Assessment (ARA) report has been completed and forwarded to FPR where it, in turn, has been submitted by them to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) for their review. No grant-related work can be done until a concurrence letter has been issued by VDHP. Planning can still occur, though. There was discussion about possible contractors for the bridge work. Various MCC members plan to have informal discussions with several contractors re: their interest and availability. Further clarification will also be sought re: the proper procurement process, and it is expected that requests for proposals (RFPs) will be issued as soon as possible.
- Forest Roads Assessment – The assessment was done, but there are no plans to pursue funding for recommended forest road work at this time.
- Bird Habitat Work – Work was completed. Some of it is near the TF trail, but does not appear to affect it at this time.

Replacement Tree for MES Graduating Class – Tabled until spring 2027

Drawing of Winning Raffle Ticket – This was done. The bat box was won by someone visiting from CT. The Beaver Meadow gift certificate was won by Carol Farmer.

Hectorville Bridge Ideas – Kip raised the idea of utilizing materials from the old Hectorville bridge to build a visitor information center and place for the ATM at the site of the proposed new parking area in the Center. He shared that he had informal discussions with other chairs/members of various boards in Town about this, too. All present at this MCC meeting agreed that it sounded like a great idea for many reasons. The specific relevance to the MCC is that this would provide an effective and visually appealing means of sharing information about the Town Forest and the Jewett Town Land, both of which are valuable resources for visitors as well as for members of the community. In addition, information about the MCC and other

conservation organizations could be available at the information center. It was agreed that the idea should be discussed further with Charlie Hancock, and Patrick and Kip agreed to do that.
Membership on MCC Board – There was discussion about when terms expire for existing member(s) as well as about the need to add new members.
Meeting Schedule – The MCC will not meet over the winter. The next scheduled meeting is March 3, 2027. The plan is to keep in touch, though, via e-mail/phone re: RTP grant-related issues/work and/or any other concerns.
Strategic Wood Additions (SWA) Assessment with FCNRCD at Town Forest – This is scheduled for 11/11/26. Any MCC members who are interested are more than welcome to attend. Charlie Hancock will be there as well.
Newsletter – The idea was raised of sending a newsletter to the listserv re: the MCC's activities in the past year as well as upcoming plans for 2027, including the need for volunteers to work on the TF project. Marielle offered to work on this.
Krusch Nature Preserve – Cambridge, VT - Info – Kip shared info and photos from a visit there. All agreed that there are many great ideas which we could consider incorporating at the Town Forest. These include nice quality metal signage, having QR codes on signs, erosion control measures, and benches, as well as other ideas.

Matt made a motion, seconded by Kip, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Joan Hildreth.