

Minutes of the Montpelier Conservation Commission, 07/11/19

The meeting was called to order at 7:15. Present were Michael Lazorchak, Katie Michels, Brenna Toman, Jamie Bates (by phone), Jasper Eckland, Cheryl Ecklund, Page Guertin, new member Phyllis Rubenstein, Elizabeth Courtney representing Ecolibrium, and Holly Greenleaf from Sustainable Rights of Way. One member of the public was also present.

The Agenda was approved. No members of the public had comments.

Elizabeth Courtney spoke about the Rain Garden project at VSECU. She showed us the three conceptual designs that will be introduced at the Kickoff Meeting tomorrow. One of these designs will be chosen by VSECU, with input from MCC. Questions included what are the maintenance requirements of each design, and who gets the final say over which design to use.

Holly Greenleaf is available to do whatever artistic endeavor we need. A brochure explaining rain gardens - how they function, why they are important - is one possibility. VSECU has offered their art people to design the interpretive sign for the rain garden, so a brochure would be a good additional educational tool to be handed out to the public. Katie suggested information on what stormwater projects MCC will focus on next.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing where MCC goes from here, and who will take over leadership now that James Brady has stepped down. We need to select a Chair, but no one has stepped up as yet. Jamie might be interested if we have City staff support to help with administrative tasks such as taking and posting minutes. Katie will follow up on the possibility of staff support.

Commenting on development proposals: The Zoning Administrator and the Chair of the DRB spoke with the Commission several months ago, but we are still unsure as to how to proceed with developing a protocol for commenting on development proposals that fall within our purview. There are four Chapters in the Zoning Regs that trigger MCC comment opportunity. Brenna will review 3405 and 3409, Page will review 3005 and 3404. They will bring information back to the Commission to see if that helps us begin to develop a protocol.

Discussion followed about the members have not attended meetings regularly - do they want to remain on the Commission or should we seek out new membership? Page will follow up with them. We also have several open memberships to fill.

Conservation Fund: We are still working on reactivating the Conservation Fund. Page has the founding documents from Roy Schiff, which she will give to Brenna. Brenna, head of the Conservation Fund Committee, will connect with the City Council about appointing two non-MCC members to that Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Page Guertin, MCC member