MONTPELIER
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

MCC Meeting Minutes – 08/27/2019

Members present: Michael Lazorchak, Page Guertin, Phyllis Rubenstein, Jamie Bates, and Katie Michels. Minutes completed by Jamie Bates.

The following topics were discussed, and any decisions made correlating below the topic. Anything voted on by the quorum will be identified as either “approved” or “denied”.

1. Minutes of the last meeting on 7/11/2019 were reviewed and approved.
2. Discussed and revisited changing the time scheduled for future regular MCC meetings.
    a. A Doodle poll survey will be provided to the MCC members, by Bates, before the Monday prior to the next meeting scheduled 9/12/2019. At this meeting we will raise the question or decision to reschedule the regular meeting time to something other than the “second Thursday of every month”.
    b. Based on attendees it appeared Wednesday(s) at the same time (7-9) looked promising.
3. Discussed methodology and ideas for (1) soliciting for new members & (2) coordinating communication with appointed, but sedentary, members, in hopes to regroup with more active participating members. Updates to be discussed next meeting.
    a. Page Guertin volunteered to call or meet with members who have not attended meetings lately, to discuss whether they would like to continue as members or be interested in becoming emeritus members.
    b. Phyllis Rubenstein volunteered to notify and inquire to the City, Jamie Granfield, to advertise, post publicly, that the MCC has 2 alternate member openings.
4. Discussed Rain Garden Project progress and updates.
    a. Page met up with VSECU, the VSECU maintenance crew, VYCC, and Ecolibrium for a re-cap meeting. All parties that attended are pleased by the design and construction of the rain garden.
    b. The LCBP Grant ($14,708) received, fell short of the actual costs to design and construct the rain garden. Page is scheduling a get together with VYCC, VSECU, and Ecolibrium to discuss the final costs of the project. After these values are known, MCC can assess the grant and contract to find out how much was underfunded.
    c. Next steps include designing and constructing signage with VSECU and Holly Greenleaf with Resilient Rights of Way. VSECU agreed to provide the sign design as a match. The construction of the sign will be covered hopefully by a different grant.
    d. Page proposed hosting a Grand Opening for the complete rain garden, sometime between September 16th and 20th. Page, VSECU, and Ecolibrium will work to get public figures like the Governor to attend. Suggested scheduling a time for both during and after work hours for maximum attendance goals. Updates will be provided at the next meeting.
5. MCC Budget was discussed.
    a. MCC needs to identify who the budget liaison with the City is. Page had mentioned Todd Provencher, City Finance Manager is our main contact for budget topics. Page will reach

out to Todd to find out what our current budget is for FY2019 (as of 7/1/2019), before any budget votes are raised. Updates on this will be shared during the next meeting.
   b. Page will also inquire about past fiscal year funds that were not used to see what happen if we do not spend.
6. Discussed Sabins Pasture “Bath house” project introduced at a City Council Meeting to alter the zoning for the project implementation. It was determined this project s not yet in the stages where MCC has jurisdiction to review and must wait for further plans.
   a. Phyllis Rubenstein inquired about the Conservation fund budget and when/whether MCC should consider using the funds to match a grant to purchase Sabin’s Pasture or at least a portion of it. This topic was tabled for when we receive more information. In the meantime, MCC should look into the process and requirements to pursue this, prior to voting.
7. Discussed our jurisdiction with the Zoning Bylaws and what some next steps are.
   a. Milly Archer from Resilient Rights of Way (RRW) drafted a question document to help MCC conduct review for jurisdictional projects.
   b. Jamie Bates will polish up her checklist and notes, revise and comment on the draft, then send to Milly for review. Updates will be shared at the next meeting.
8. Discussed revisiting or reorganizing ad-hoc committees, which previously focused on:
   a. Stormwater / Rain garden
   b. Natural Communities Mapping updates and field verification of LiDAR identified wetland or vernal pool areas within Montpelier.
   c. Conservation Fund reactivation
   d. Social Media and Outreach

   MCC needs to identify or prioritize existing ad-hoc committees or identify new ones to meet the needs of the commission. This will be discussed further in the next meeting.
9. Discussed Confluence Park design progress. Katie Michels mentioned there is a meeting on Tuesday 9/24 on the final design, held within the Memorial Room of City Hall. This may be an opportunity for MCC to contribute monetary support. Updates on this meeting and what may be proposed for support will be raised next meeting.
10. Approved for meeting Adjourned.