

**Middlesex Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 6, 2015  
7:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:** George Longnecker, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard, Charlie Merriman, Scott Gurley

1. Administrative Operations

Dave reported there were no responses to his Front Porch Forum post aimed to recruit new Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) members. Current MCC members discussed reaching out to a few people directly. With all current members present at this meeting, there was a quorum.

a. Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2015

Minutes for the May 7, 2015 meeting were not available for approval.

b. Meeting minutes for June 4, 2015

Dave motions to approve June minutes, Lee seconds, no discussion, minutes approved unanimously.

c. Treasurer's Report

The MCC fund balance sheet was not available for review. Dave reported the fund balance is approximately \$22,000. Recent expenditures include signs for salamander crossings and payment to Ms. Rose Beatty in the amount of \$280 for forester services provided within the Town Forest. All discussed that it would be beneficial for the treasurer to have monthly access to the commission fund balance sheet. Charlie will inquire whether the treasurer can receive a monthly printout of the balance sheet.

d. Election of Officers

The treasurer was elected at this meeting. Charlie nominated Scott with a second from George. There was no discussion. All were in favor of Scott for treasurer.

2. Project Reports

a. Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area

The trail work outing at the Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area (WBRA) needs to be rescheduled. Dave will discuss dates in mid-September or early October with Colin O'Neil.

Charlie attended a recreation committee meeting to discuss ownership. At this meeting, a question was raised about what expenses are associated with managing the property and what expenses the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) would continue to cover. The WBRA Board is seeking information from VT DEC to compare their operating budget to VT DEC expenditures. The MCC will track whether this information has been gathered.

b. Three Mile Bridge Road:

FEMA conducted a site visit. A public meeting regarding moving the interim plan to a final plan needs to be scheduled. A final plan would be drafted following the public meeting, incorporating input from the meeting. Dave indicated the public meeting will likely occur in 2016.

c. Middlesex Town Forest

Bill Rossmassler is updating the management plan. MCC members should review the management plan and provide comments to Bill within the next month.

Chip Darnstadt led a bird walk on July 11<sup>th</sup>. About 6-8 people attended. Dave scheduled a geology walk for Sept. 13 with Larry Becker.

Dave reported Cynthia Steed would like to sell her property adjoining the town forest (approximately 40-acres). If sold to the Town and incorporated into the Town forest, life estate restrictions may restrict public access to certain areas. MCC will be receiving an application for funding from conservation fund to purchase the property. Dave indicated Cynthia would like to sell for about \$1,000/acre (~\$40,000 total). MCC discussed possible funding sources, which include the conservation fund (~\$22,000) and the potential to use Town funds received from the sale of a small town owned parcel near the town clerk's office (the sale price is expected to be ~\$22,000). Use of funds from sale of Town parcel is contingent upon select board approval.

Dave suggested constituting a Conservation Fund Committee per Section 6 of the *Middlesex Conservation Fund Guidance Document and Application* to make decisions relative to acquiring Steed parcel. He suggested the committee comprise five or six people with two representatives of the MCC. Dave plans to recruit committee members via FPF and/or follow-up with individuals.

d. Other Business

Friends of the Winooski reached out to Dave, requesting MCC assist with their annual river cleanup day on September 12. They are looking for partnering to clean sections of the Winooski River in Middlesex. Lee will follow up with Friends of the Winooski to inquire about which sections in Middlesex MCC could assist with and other details.

A couple concerned citizens, who are worried about stream sedimentation, contacted Dave regarding a Residence on Herrick Brook, where fill has been placed up to the edge of the brook. Lee confirmed the fill is from the Molly Supple road project. Town zoning regulations require a 25 foot vegetated buffer between streams and construction projects. MCC discussed the possibility of the Town remediating the disturbed buffer zone.

Dave reported a central Vermont resident contacted him regarding a beaver lodge that may have been vandalized. It is unclear whether there was vandalism or the lodge was disturbed by natural causes.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Lee Rosberg