

**Middlesex Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

Attendees: George Longenecker, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard, Charlie Merriman, Richard Alderman, Steve Juiffre

1. Administrative Operations

a. Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2015

Barry Goodman was unable to locate minutes for the May 7, 2015 meeting. This minutes will not be available for approval.

b. Meeting minutes for August 6, 2015

George moves to approve minute. Charlie seconds. Minutes approved unanimously.

c. Treasurer's Report

Nothing to report.

d. Correspondence

None.

2. Project Reports

a. Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area

Colin O'Neil proposed October 3 as a make-up date for trail work. Several MCC members indicated they would be out of town. Dave will check back with Colin to see if other October dates will work.

b. Three Mile Bridge Road

No updates.

c. Middlesex Town Forest

The Conservation Fund Committee met immediately prior to the MCC meeting and approved use of conservation commission funds for the purchase of the Steed property that adjoins the Town Forest. An exact amount of conservation commission funds for this purchase was not specified. George made a motion to recommend purchasing the Steed property to the select board using \$20,000 of conservation fund money. Lee seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Dave indicated the Town is exploring options to close the gap on the asking price, which is \$40,000.

Dave indicated MCC members should review the Town Forest Management Plan and provide comments to Bill Rossmassler ASAP. Bill will present a revised draft of the Town Forest Management Plan at the joint MCC/Town Forest Stewardship Committee meeting in November. One comment Dave brought up was to alter wording to permit small open cuts that would encourage early successional habitat. This was previously recommended in an Audubon Society assessment of the Town Forest (c. 2011).

Larry Becker, former State Geologist, will lead a geology walk in the Town forest Sunday, September 13 from 9:00 to 12:00. Larry requested funds to create teaching materials for the walk, which can subsequently be used on the MCC display. Charlie motioned to approve \$50 expenditure for educational materials for the geology walk, Lee seconded. No discussion, motion was approved unanimously. Larry has also expressed interest in joining the MCC.

Dave plans to contact Seth Cofey to schedule trail scouting in mid-October.

Dave indicated one large and several small parcels near the Mt. Hunger trailhead and encompass sections of trail may come up for sale in the near future. This is likely to draw interest from conservation groups. MCC discussed whether MCC would like to be an active player in the potential conservation efforts.

d. Other Business

Lee contacted Ann Smith of Friends of the Winooski (FOW) to follow up about coordinating a river cleanup in Middlesex in mid-September. While there was not enough lead time from FOW to coordinate this effort this year, Lee wrote a letter to the select board expressing interest in future efforts. The select board suggested including expenses for a river cleanup in future MCC budgets. Ann Smith indicated if the MCC pledge some amount (suggested \$250-\$500) for rubbish disposal costs, FOW could help with additional funds if needed. Future efforts would require scouting/selecting a section of river to cleanup and coordinating rubbish disposal, boats, and volunteers. Dave suggested scouting sections of river near the fire station or three mile bridge.

Dave emailed the select board, informing them that concern had been raised about sedimentation of Herrick Brook from fill that was placed close to the Brook and did not maintain a 25 foot vegetated buffer zone. The source of the fill was the Molly Supple road project. Charlie suggested forwarding the email to the Town zoning administrator.

Dave motioned to adjourn, George seconded, all approved.
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Lee Rosberg