

Commissioners
x Dick Alderman
x Scott Gurley
x George Longenecker
x Dave Shepard
absent:
Larry Becker
Charlie Merriman
Lee Rosberg
__ Vacant

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, November 12, 2015
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

AGENDA

Guests: Bill Rossmassler; Steve Juiffre

The meeting convened at 7:00

- Approved meeting minutes from September and October, George moved, Scott seconded
 - No treasurer’s report
 - Reviewed correspondence from VT Land Trust
 - Approved budget request FY 2017, \$500 —Scott moved, George seconded
 - Approved Conservation Fund appropriation—\$2000 for 2016 Town Meeting—George Moved, Dick seconded. The Commission decided to ask for less considering the \$40,000 being spent on the Steed parcel addition to the Town Forest and anticipated town wage and health care increases.
 - Approved Conservation Fund Subcommittee meeting minutes —Dave moved, George seconded
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Project Reports— Middlesex Town Forest and Wrightsville

- Steed parcel purchase update George and Bill updated the Commission on the Steed purchase. It is still not clear if the occupants of the cabin have left. They must be gone before the town completes the purchase. The purchase will not impact the budget as the \$40,000 is in the Conservation Fund. The parcel ha a forestry management plan, which was done by Wilmer Brandt
 - Trail scouting report: The potential trails are flagged to the scenic ridge south of Chase’s Mountain. Once the Steed purchase is complete, the beginning of the planned trail can be relocated. Work can begin in spring, 2016.
 - Boundary update: There are still a couple of places where the exact boundary is uncertain. The Commission and its Town Forest Subcommittee will try to meet with adjacent landowners.
 - Geology walk report: Larry Becker took a group into the forest to look at soils and rock types—a well-attended outing.
 - Wrightsville Update: Trail work planned in spring, 2016
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- Proposed amendments to Middlesex zoning regulations: Dick Alderman updated the Commission on the most recent proposed changes to the Town Plan. The Commission needs the most recent updates. Bill Rossmassler expressed concern about the retail stores over 1,500 square feet and other uses in the mixed use area next to I-89, saying it could make the town like Berlin.” Dick said that some district boundaries don’t make sense. The plan is a work in progress.

- Under new and other business the Commission discussed the Burnt Mountain parcel, 763 acres at the base of Mt. Hunger, which is listed for sale with Fountain Lands at \$1,144,500. Dave will see if Trust for Public Land or other conservation organizations are interested.

George Longenecker, Vice-Chair