

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, February 1, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Middlesex, VT

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Sorsha Anderson, Heather Katz, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard

Guests: Mitch Osiecki - Middlesex Recreation Director/Zoning Administrator, Ira Shadis, Greg Western – Director, Cross Vermont Trail Association

1. Administrative Operations

a. Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) Display:

Lee showed the current set-up of the tri-fold MCC display that will be set up in a side hallway at Rumney School during Town Meeting Day. Greg Western from Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) noted his organization would also be interested in setting up a display to support their one-time funding request for the East Montpelier bridge and trail construction project. He and Ira Shadis would also like to have an opportunity to speak with Middlesex residents about Ira's idea for a trail to connect the Hunger Mountain trail with Hubbard Park in Montpelier. George inquired whether the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation had been contacted about the trail concept and Ira said they had. Mitch noted that Collin O'Neal who is the manager of the Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area and also works on recreational trails for Norwich University has also expressed interest in inter-town trail connections.

George and Heather will both be available to staff the display prior to the start of Town Meeting at 4:30. Sorsha will update the display with some new text where needed and potentially some new photos. MCC members can send her MCC related photos that could be added to the display. A sign-up for those interested in Green-Up Day could be included with the signup sheets for those who want to be kept informed of MCC activities and the annual salamander migration.

b. Minutes of February 1, 2018 Meeting:

George moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2018 meeting of the MCC with a second from Ross. The minutes were approved with minor typographical corrections.

c. Treasurer's Report:

Heather provided fund balances as of December 31, 2017:

- MCC annual operating budget = \$400
- MCC Special Fund = \$864.50
- Conservation Fund = \$9028.34

Heather asked whether it was known if the MCC Special Fund is unrestricted. Dave replied that it is as it was created by a gift to the MCC to be used in any manner the MCC chooses.

d. Correspondence:

Lee noted that he was unable to sign up MCC members for the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions list serve; interested members can visit the AVCC website and sign

up there. The list serve recently had an interesting exchange on the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District including rainbow trout, a non-native fish species, in their annual fundraising sale.

There was recently an Act 171 webinar that would potentially have been of interest to the MCC and the Planning Commission. Act 171 requires town and regional planning commissions to consider contiguous forests in their plans. The webinar was recorded and will be available to view.

The Vermont Land Trust sent some information about timber harvests and noted they will be contacting the MCC about a site visit at the Middlesex Town Forest (MTF).

2. Project Reports

a. MTF

- Management Plan: There hasn't been any action on the update for the MTF management plan.
- Trail: The next outing for scouting and flagging the last segment of the trail to the summit of Chase Mountain will be weather dependent. Additional cutting of the flagline could be done as members have the time and inclination.
- LiDAR Mapping: Larry showed copies of the two latest maps for possible inclusion with the display at Town Meeting.
- Educational Walk: Due to potential wetness on the MTF, MCC sponsored walks should probably be delayed until May or June. Dave mentioned a recent conversation with Susanna Bliss who would potentially be interested in giving a slideshow on wild edibles. April might be an appropriate time for this – Dave will follow up with her.

b. Hunger Mountain Headwaters Project

Lee will check in with Kate Wanner with the Trust for Public Lands about any assistance the MCC may be able to provide.

c. Three Mile Bridge Parcel

Greg said the CVTA has interest in this parcel as Three Mile Bridge Road, where it passes by this parcel, is the route of the Cross Vermont Trail. CVTA could assist with upkeep of the site such as mowing, invasive species control and maintenance of any facilities such as a picnic table. They could also provide an interpretive sign. He will work on an example of the sign and Lee will send him a copy of the interim management plan.

d. Green-Up Day Planning

The potential to sign up for road sections was mentioned when discussing the Town Meeting Day display. It was noted that Commissioners will staff the drop-off site as usual and that Green-Up Day is Saturday, May 5th.

e. Spring Salamander Migration

This event will be weather dependent, as usual, but likely won't occur until after the April

meeting.

e. Additional Projects

There were no updates on the following projects: Shady Rill Park Ecosystem Restoration Grant, and Martin's Brook Stormwater Ecosystem Restoration Grant.

3. Other Business

Lee noted the recent discovery of emerald ash borer in Vermont. Lee may miss a few upcoming meetings; George will fill in as necessary to organize MCC meetings. Dave will take the lead for the next couple of months on scheduling any MTF field outings.

4. Meeting Adjournment

Lee moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Sorsha. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary.

DRAFT