

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, April 5, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Middlesex, VT

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Sorsha Anderson, Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard

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

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of March 1, 2018 Meeting:

Lee moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2018 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a correction to the date of the meeting and a clarification about the MCC special fund. The motion was seconded by George and the minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer’s Report:

There were no financial reports since the last meeting so no updates to fund balances. Lee noted \$5000 was approved for the Conservation Fund at Town Meeting and should be deposited into the account in July or August.

c. Correspondence:

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) has received the Stormwater Ecosystem Restoration Grant for Martin’s Brook they applied for from the Department of Environmental Conservation. The MCC provided a letter of support for WNRCD’s grant application. WNRCD will be contracting some of the work with Stone Environmental. At the time the MCC provided the letter of support, Lee was unaware that Stone Environmental, his employer, might be selected as a contractor for this project. He will contact Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman to inform the Select Board.

2. Project Reports

a. Three Mile Bridge Parcel

Greg Western presented a proposal from the Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) to assist with the management of this parcel that is located along the route of the Cross Vermont Trail. The proposal included mowing two areas that would provide an obvious place for trail users to access the property, invasive species control, installation of a bench in one of the mowed areas, and preparation and installation of a sign with an interpretive panel that would identify the site. One potential name suggested for this small park was Three Mile Bridge River Conservation Park. Another idea was to incorporate “wayside” into the name. Lee will contact the Select Board about getting on their agenda to present this proposal.

b. Middlesex Town Forest (MTF)

- Management Plan: No update.
- Trail: Due to likely wet ground conditions, it may be necessary to hold off on continuing to cut

the trail route and flag the last portion to the summit of Chase Mountain until sometime in May.

- LiDAR Mapping: Larry said producing a final map is waiting on being able to GPS the final route for the trail.
- Educational Walks: Lee spoke after Town Meeting with Bob Zaino, a Middlesex resident and employee with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, who would be interested in leading a walk on a natural history topic. Dave will follow up with Susanna Bliss about a slideshow on wild edibles that might be followed by a walk at a later date.

c. Shady Rill Park Ecosystem Restoration Grant: The WNRCD is planning to attend the June meeting of the MCC, typically held at the Shady Rill Park, to discuss the upcoming project.

d. Hunger Mountain Headwaters Project

Lee, George and Dave met with the Trust for Public Land regarding this project. Discussion involved TPL's funding needs for this project and potential approaches to raising the money. The MCC will provide TPL with the list of donors from the fund raising effort to purchase the MTF. TPL will cross reference this list with other fund raising efforts to avoid double contacting of potential donors. The MCC can review a request to use the Conservation Fund to support this project and potentially make a funding recommendation to the Select Board.

e. Green-Up Day Planning

Sorsha will check with the Green-Up organization about bags and posters. She will also coordinate with Paul Cerminara about a Town dump truck being available at the drop-off site and with Bolduc's about the metal dumpster. The following schedule for staffing the drop-off was determined:

- 9:00-11:00 – Sorsha
- 11:00-1:00 – Ross
- 1:00-3:00 – Heather (Dave or Lee could also fill this slot if needed)

Mitch mentioned he is interested in cleaning up a dump site at the Walter Kelley Park and may try to include this as a Green-Up event.

e. Spring Salamander Migration

The North Branch Nature Center, to whom the MCC has submitted data for the past several years, is promoting some changes to improve data collection this year.

3. Other Business

Ross mentioned potential interest by the Green Mountain Adventure Racing Association in conducting one of their events on the Middlesex Town Forest.

4. Meeting Adjournment

Lee moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Sorsha. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary.