

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, May 3, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Middlesex, VT

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Dick Alderman, Sorsha Anderson, Larry Becker, Heather Katz, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard
Guests: Scott Beaudin, Mitch Osiecki - Middlesex Recreation Director/Zoning Administrator

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of April 5, 2018 Meeting:

Lee moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2018 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a clarification that the purpose of Lee contacting Select Board Clerk Sarah Merriman was to inform the Select Board of a potential conflict of interest with his employer, Stone Environmental, being selected as a contractor to be paid from a grant obtained by the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) for which the MCC had provided a letter of support. The motion to approve the minutes, as amended, was seconded by George and the minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

Heather reported the following fund balances:

- Middlesex Conservation Fund = \$9,028.57
- MCC Special Project Fund = \$864.53
- MCC Operating Budget = \$400

If survey work on the Middlesex Town Forest (MTF) resulted in a work product that the Town receives there may be a fee to be paid. George moved to use funds from the operating budget to purchase a mattock or hazel hoe for trail work; Ross seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

c. Correspondence

Lee reached out to members of the Middlesex Town Forest Stewardship Committee to inquire about their interest in continuing with the Committee. Bill Rossmassler and Steve Juiffre are both interested in continuing. Brian Redmond will step down due to other commitments. He also mentioned concern has been expressed by some Notch Road residents about the amount of shooting that is occurring at the Town gravel pit. Bill has recently contacted Anne Villeneuve's forester about the status of any logging plans for the Villeneuve property and Mike Patterson about the survey work on the MTF.

Brian Prendergast contacted Sarah Merriman about the eroding gully across from Rumney School. He has been making some attempts at stabilizing the gully, which has expanded significantly in the past year. Lee informed him that the WNRCD is overseeing work on a design for addressing this problem. Lee also took photos and passed them on to WNRCD. There will be a site visit next week. Lee has contacted Sarah Merriman about his potential conflict of interest

with this project since his employer company, Stone Environmental, has been contracted by WNRCD to work on this project.

Middlesex resident Dell McDonough has submitted a letter of interest in filling the remaining vacancy on the MCC. Several other residents have indicated interest in the MCC through the Town Plan survey being conducted by the Middlesex Planning Commission.

Tammy Picard has inquired about a dump site on Shady Rill Road in relation to Green Up Day. Lee noted that trash in the road right of way can be cleaned up during Green Up Day but not on private land. Someone who will be away on Green Up Day has cleaned up Three Mile Bridge Road resulting in three bags near the junction of Three Mile Bridge Road and Route 2. Lee will pick them up for transport to the collection site at the Town Garage. There are also several tires and a mattress along Three Mile Bridge Road.

2. Project Reports

a. Three Mile Bridge Road Parcel

The Select Board has approved an agreement with the Cross Vermont Trail Association for assistance with maintaining and managing the Three Mile Bridge Road Parcel as a minimally developed park. They also authorized the MCC to choose a name for the park and to develop wording for a sign to be installed at the site. The roadside mowing contracted by the Town will include brush hogging a portion of this property with the area to be left unmowed to be delineated by the MCC. The name for the park approved by the MCC is “Three Mile Bridge Wayside”.

b. Conservation Fund Guidance Document

A revision of this document, originally adopted on October 12, 2004, was presented for review and approval by the MCC. Lee recommended an edit on page 4 and through discussion another edit was incorporated on page 5. The MCC also approved a suggestion to replace “shall” with “may” in reference to the Fund utilizing monies from the sale of timber on town lands or other income generated from conserved property. The MCC approved the revised Conservation Fund Guidance Document.

c. Middlesex Town Forest

- Bill Rossmassler is interested in moving forward with updating the Middlesex Town Forest (MTF) Management Plan even if any logging schedule is undetermined.
- A field day for fine tuning the flagline for the last portion of the trail to the summit of Chase Mountain was scheduled for May 20th at 9:00. Scott Beaudin, who recently purchased the former Rock property that shares a boundary with the MTF, expressed concern with a portion of the proposed trail location being close to this boundary without a blazed property line on the ground. He was invited to meet members of the MCC, possibly on May 20th, to review the flagline as

proposed.

- No further progress has been made on scheduling educational walks.

d. Green Up Day

A new addition to Green Up Day is that the Girl Scouts will be at the collection site at the Town Garage with lemonade for Green Up volunteers. Sorsha is also planning to bring some refreshments and additional refreshments are welcome.

e. Hunger Mountain Headwaters Project

With assistance from Senator Leahy, funding from the federal Forest Legacy program has been approved for the purchase of this property. The Trust for Public Land (TPL), who recently purchased the land to ensure its' protection, will be fundraising to cover their costs of holding the property until the Forest Legacy funds are available. This will include an event at the Thouron residence near the Mt. Hunger and White Rocks Mountain trailhead. The MCC has provided TPL with the list of contributors for the purchase of the MTF.

f. Tactical Basin Plan Survey

Lee has reviewed and proposed responses to a request from the WNRCD for feedback on their Tactical Basin Plan Survey as follows:

- Planning and zoning efforts should not result in forest fragmentation
- Support Best Management Practices (BMPs) for landowners and road maintenance related to the Total Maximum Daily Load for phosphorus

Projects:

- Support the TPL with their efforts to conserve the Hunger Mountain Headwaters property
- Support work on existing ecosystem restoration grants received by the WNRCD

Needs:

- Great Brook assessment

g. Salamander Migration

Dave reported on the amphibian crossing numbers at the Molly Supple Hill Road/East Hill Road and the Brook Road sites. This year there was a volunteer adopter of the former site through the North Branch Nature Center (NBNC). NBNC also developed a new format for the crossing sites for volunteers to use to develop more scientifically valid numbers for the crossing sites. MCC members assisted the adopter at the Molly Supple/East Hill Road site on one evening and were also present on two other evenings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary