

**MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, April 2, 2020**  
**Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom**

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**Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Sorsha Anderson, Larry Becker, Heather Katz, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Dell McDonough, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard  
Guest: Paul Cerminara

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Lee proposed passing over approval the minutes of previous meetings.

b. Treasurer Report

Heather reported there were no updates to the financial report.

c. Middlesex Town Forest/Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area Parking

A site visit was conducted in February with Paul, Lee and Tim Appleton from the Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) to discuss parking options for the Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area (MNWMA) Middlesex Town Forest (MTF). The DFW is willing to move their parking area further up Notch Road for the mutual advantage of the MNWMA and MTF. Paul has been in contact with Bryan Redmond about a potential parking area for the MTF on a portion of his property. Paul plans to mark out potential parking areas in the near future.

d. Correspondence

Emails were received from Bill Rossmassler concerning a couple of issues relating to the MTF. Bill has been in contact with the forester for adjoining property owner Ann Villeneuve and there are no current plans for a timber harvest on her property. There is interest by both the forester and the MCC in coordinating logging on the MTF with the Villeneuve property. Bill has also reached out to Mike Patterson to inquire whether there are any updates available on the MTF boundary line work that was conducted several years ago.

e. Jon Udis Letter of Interest

Jon Udis sent a letter of interest in joining the MCC. Ben Green had also expressed interest but has indicated more interest in the trails subcommittee and has withdrawn from consideration to be a member of the MCC. Several members spoke in support of Jon being appointed to join the MCC. Lee made a motion to accept Jon's letter of interest and recommend to the Select Board that he be appointed to a three year term on the MCC. A second to the motion was provided by George and the motion passed.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

a. Trail Subcommittee (George and Dave)

At the February meeting results were presented from a survey that was advertised on Front Porch Forum (FPF) and made available on Town Meeting Day. One interesting result was landowners

who expressed interest in allowing a trail on their property. These landowner's properties will be plotted on a map to see if there are any groupings of interested landowners that might suggest potential trail locations. The site visit with someone from the Fish & Wildlife Department to assess the beaver induced roadway flooding on North Bear Swamp Road has been postponed due to COVID-19.

b. Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area Trail (George)

Discussion of the trail from the boat launch to the beach where two bridges are in need of replacement. One of these bridges may not be necessary. There is a question as to whether any previous grant money may remain that could fund a trail crew to rebuild the larger bridge. Scott Gurley, who originally applied for the grant, may be able to look into this. Collin O'Neal has some ideas on how the rebuilt bridge could be anchored so it won't float out of position during high water.

c. Emerald Ash Borer (Sorsha)

Sorsha will post a notice on FPF about training for mapping ash trees along roadsides. The mapping App has a new name but is otherwise very similar to the App that was previously being used. Ross noted that teaching volunteers to identify ash trees while maintaining social distancing may be challenging. He suggested a Zoom meeting as an alternative.

d. Green-Up Day (Sorsha)

Green-Up Day has been postponed until the end of May. Heather noted that a later date may make trash harder to spot since vegetation will be higher than it normally would be. She also noted trash could be collected sooner by individuals while maintaining social distancing.

e. Amphibian Migration

The North Branch Nature Center has sent out a notice about their amphibian road crossing site program protocol. There are some changes from past years including not needed to sign up for a specific site. George will post the amphibian crossing signs on Molly Supple Hill Road.

f. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

Ross showed an updated version of the kiosk display, it is ready to be printed once it can be installed. Cost for printing can likely be covered by funds remaining in the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions Tiny Grant.

Construction of a box for the logbook is on Lee's project list. Lee has reached out to Brian Prendergast about construction of trail signs.

Lee asked if there was any word on the Recreational Trails Program Grant; Dave said there was no word yet from the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. If there is still no word in a

few more weeks Dave will make an inquiry.

Lee will send around the version of the MTF Management Plan with the edits shown for review.

Once his schedule clears up Ross will look into updating the MTF website.

g. Conservation Fund

It is likely that the MCC will receive a request for \$5000 from the Conservation Fund to support a conservation easement for Sarah Seidman's property.

h. Shady Rill Restoration Project (Heather)

Heather reported that the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District has received a clean water grant to fund construction of the Shady Rill recreation area restoration project. George asked if the Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area is aware of this; Heather will check and make sure they are informed.

i. Three Mile Bridge Road Park (Larry)

Larry will plan to meet Greg Western onsite once COVID-19 restrictions are eased to coordinate installation of the sign. He will also check into whether the mailboxes installed on the roadside on the property are still active.

3. New Business

George reported the Green Mountain Club has closed its' office and has suspended all trail activities due to COVID-19.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary