MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, February 4, 2021
Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Dell McDonough, Lee Rosberg, and Dave Shepard
Guests: Damian Boyd-Boffa, David Lein and Nancy Wood

1. Administrative Operations

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

a. Minutes of January 7, 2021 Meeting
George made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2021 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Dell. The minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report
Updated financial numbers were not available for this meeting. Lee announced that Heather Katz is moving from Middlesex and will be resigning from the MCC. The MCC will need someone to take over from Heather as Treasurer. Lee noted Heather's significant contributions to the MCC including serving as Treasurer and her work on the Shady Rill Park riparian restoration project.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)
a. Manosh Property Update
Prospective purchasers of two of the three Manosh Property parcels joined the meeting: Damian Boyd-Boffa, and David Lein and Nancy Wood. Nancy and David, who are seeking to purchase the Densmore parcel, said they plan to continue to allow public access to the land and have met with Aaron Weed of the local Vermont Association of Snow Traveler's (VAST) club about hosting the existing snowmobile trail that crosses the property. Damian similarly indicated an interest in sharing outdoor resources. David has interest in a ridge trail to connect from Densmore Mountain to the existing trail on White Rocks.

b. Middlesex Trails Group (Jon, George and Dave)
George reported that Planetary Matters, who are associated with the Camp Meade property in Middlesex Village, have proposed a trail to run along the Winooski River on their property. They have applied for a grant to support this project with the Town as applicant. Larry offered to write a letter of support from the MCC if the timing is such that a letter would be helpful in supporting the grant application.

c. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)
• Trail Maintenance: Dave noted the recent heavy snowfall may have created some additional blowdowns on the Chases Mountain Trail. Ross asked for any feedback on the trail signs that were recently installed. There are two additional signs for the summit area that could be installed

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but they didn't seem essential and there weren't appropriate trees to mount the signs on where they would need to go.

•Parking: Steve Juiffre sent an email expressing concern about parking being established beyond the last house on Notch Road for various reasons including security of vehicles and possible undesirable activity at a more secluded parking area. Lee said that Middlesex resident and Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) employee Bob Zaino will be taking over oversight of the Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area (MNWMA). It appears the Town has created an overflow parking area at the Town gravel pit but this needs to be confirmed with the Selectboard along with inquiring whether it can be signed as such. Dave contacted Tim Appleton with DFW, who has been overseeing the MNWMA, about whether a map could be posted on the kiosk to show the relation of the MNWMA to the MTF. He granted permission to do so. Ross will prepare a draft map for review and when finalized Lee will have it printed and laminated.

•Forest Management Plan: Lee contacted Rose Beatty, forester for the Villenueve property that adjoins the MTF, about whether any timber harvesting was imminent. She confirmed that there are no plans to a harvest this winter. She didn't respond to an additional inquiry about whether Villeneuve might allow trail access across their property to connect to the MTF from the Town gravel pit. It would be helpful to obtain an estimate for the cost to prepare a timber management plan for the MTF. Dave will look into this.

3. New/Other Business
Lee will check in with Sorsha about plans for Green-up Day; Dell is interested in assisting if Sorsha could use some help.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary

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