

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, May 6, 2021
Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Dell McDonough, Dave Shepard and Jon Udis
Guest: Matt Schley

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of April, 1, 2021 Meeting

Jon moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2021 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Larry. The minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

Ross reported there were no updated financial numbers for the MCC budget and funds. George inquired about the approximate amount in the Conservation Fund; Ross replied that with the private donations that have been added and the addition of the \$2500 approved at Town Meeting the Fund will stand at approximately \$10,500.

c. Matt Schley Letter of Interest to Join the MCC

Ross moved to forward Matt's letter of interest to join the MCC to the Select Board with a recommendation from the MCC that he be appointed as a member. Dell seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

d. Annual Meeting

George said the annual meeting will likely need to be remote rather than the usual potluck picnic due to COVID-19. Dell suggested the August meeting include a picnic with an earlier meeting time. All agreed this was a good idea.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

a. Middlesex Trails Group Update (Jon, George and Dave)

Jon reported at the last meeting there was continued discussion of the criteria to be used to assess Class 4 roads. Mitch Osiecki presented several designs of trail markers. Information was presented by Russ Bennett about the river trail project at Camp Meade. On May 8th there will be a walk of the proposed route for the trail.

Ross asked whether the review being conducted by the Group will include legal trails as well as Class 4 roads. George confirmed that legal trails will be included. The next meeting is on May 10th at 6:30 p.m.

b. . Green-Up Day (Dell and Jon)

Dell reported on a successful day with 40 roads covered by likely over 100 participants who collected over 100 tires and more than 80 bags of trash. Clean-up activities included the boat launch at Wrightsville Reservoir and the Park and Ride on Route 2. Dell was also contacted by a group interested in cleaning up a swimming hole that was actually in Moretown. One individual picked up over 1000 cigarette butts on Three Mile Bridge Road. The raffle that was a new event was a fun addition. The metal dumpster provided by Bolduc's was 80% filled.

George posed the questions of who discards all this trash and do we enable this by picking up their waste every year? Jon recounted an incident a few years ago when he and John McDougal encountered a large dump of trash on South Bear Swamp Road and called the State Police. They did respond and were able to identify the dumper from materials found in the trash and the individual was made to pick it all up.

c. Shady Rill Project

There was no update and there is currently no one on the MCC responsible for tracking this project with the departure of Heather Katz from the MCC. Matt expressed interest in this project. Dave will follow-up with Heather to see if there is any information she may have that could be passed on to Matt.

d. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

- Trail Maintenance: Dave proposed a spring work hike to clear the Chases Mountain Trail of any blowdowns on May 22nd or 23rd. George noted the 22nd is a Green Mountain Club work day so May 23rd was chosen for Chases Mountain Trail. Due to COVID-19 the work hike won't be advertised and will be limited to MCC members.
- Parking: Dave emailed Bob Zaino, who oversees the Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area (MNWMA), a copy of the map that the MCC would like to post on the MNWMA kiosk depicting the locations of the MNWMA and the MTF. Bob was fine with having the map posted with the suggestion of including a title. Ross will include a title for the final version.
- Forest Management Plan: George reported the MCC received an estimate of \$4600 to prepare a management plan from Birdseye Forestry. Ross and Dave noted that the proposal was very thorough but seemed to be for a complete management plan whereas there already is a management plan for the MTF and what is needed is a timber management plan that might be an appendix to the main plan. There was general agreement that more information is needed before making any decisions about a timber management plan.

3. New/Other Business

Dell asked if there were any updates on the Manosh property subdivision on South Bear Swamp Road. Ross thought the Planning Commission was still deliberating on the revised application that was submitted.

George made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jon and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary