

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, July 1, 2021
Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Dell McDonough, Lee Rosberg

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of July 1, 2021, Meeting

Larry moved to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2021, meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Dell. The minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report (Ross)

Ross reported MCC fund is \$15,558.17. At town meeting, Middlesex voters allocate \$2500.00 to MCC.

Budget: \$500.

Special Projects balance is \$998.68.

c. Election of Officers

The election of officers will be postponed until August 5, 2021, due to absence of Dave, Jon and Matt. Lee will step down as Chair. Ross will continue as Treasurer. Jon is interested in a position. Ross recommended project coordinators regularly check the secure MCC email to address anything that comes up before the August meeting. Lee will contact Phil Hjeck to assure MCC members have access to this secure email and inform MCC members re: the steps on utilizing this secure method for communication.

d. Correspondence

None to report.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

a. Middlesex Trails Group Update (George)

George reported the group is mapping out different walks and trails. They have started with former roads. Bushey Rd to Center Rd has been mapped. It will include parking availability as well as length and condition. The group will map Davy Rd to Upper Sunnybrook Rd to Lower Sunnybrook Rd. After that, they will assess Barnett Hill Rd to Rt. 2 and Bolduc Rd to East Hill.

b. Shady Rill Project (Matt is point person; Lee reported in his absence)

Lee pointed out that a lot of work has been done including the re rerouting of the entrance. George mentioned that the outhouse needs replacement and will discuss with Matt.

d. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

Lee reported that Dave had done some trail work which included removing blowdowns. Lee hiked it a few weeks ago and said it looks great. George said the cabin has not been damaged. MCC received permission from the Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area (MNWMA) to post signage re: location & parking for the MTF. It will be posted on the MNWMA kiosk. Lee or Ross will post the smaller map that identifies the MTF's wildlife.

e. Forest Management Plan (Lee)

The management plan is on hold right now. In general, the Middlesex Selectboard does not support logging. Lee points out that it can provide income and ensure sustainability.

There was a discussion about Michael Brown's proposal for logging. It is unclear if he understands our vision. George suggested we contact other towns that have hired foresters and had logging done for information on costs and results. Lee confirmed that a Washington County Forester has been hired. His name is Robert Nelson. Lee will email him re: advice on forest management including logging the MTF.

f. [Three Mile Bridge Rd.] Park* (Larry)

This parcel looked great in May when there were pink & white flowering trees. There was a Red Maple and some Pine trees as well.

Jake Campbell of Vt. Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) contacted Larry about monitoring the Milone FEMA Middlesex easement. Larry suggested he monitor in person. Once Larry receives Jake's report he will combine with other data he has collected. Larry will provide this information to the Town Clerk to submit a report to FEMA.

3. New/Other Business

George suggested Jane Dudley be contacted about a porta potty for Wrightsville Boat Launch. Next meeting will be at the Town Hall & available via Zoom.

(Adjournment approx. 8:20)

Minutes recorded by Dell McDonough, MCC member