

Commissioners
Dick Alderman
X Larry Becker
X Seth Coffey
X Heather Katz
George Longenecker
Charlie Merriman
X Lee Rosberg
X Dave Shepard

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, September 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

Minutes

1. Administrative Operations

a. Approve previous meeting’s minutes: Lee motioned to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2016 Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) meeting with a second from Dave. There was no discussion,

minutes approved unanimously.

b. Treasurer’s report: Heather has accepted the office of Treasurer. She has been in contact with Town book keeper Patty Lewis and had the following figures:

- Operating budget – the fiscal 2016 account balance was at \$121.94 by June 30th. The current budget for fiscal 2017 is assumed to be at \$500 as that was approved as part of the Town budget at Town Meeting and there have been no expenditures since July 1st.
- Conservation Fund – The numbers for the Conservation Fund don’t appear to reflect recent activity and Heather will check with Cindy and Patty on the current figure.

c. Review correspondence: Vermont Land Trust report has been received. Lee mentioned the annual meeting of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions is coming up this fall and he, Seth and Larry all expressed interest in attending.

2. Project Reports

a. Middlesex Town Forest

Seth will be fine tuning the flag line of the trail that has been laid out on the Middlesex Town Forest (MTF) on Friday, September 2nd. Lee may be able to join him.

A work hike to begin initial clearing of the trail was discussed. Seth suggested developing some trail standards before beginning this work so that everyone understands the desired trail condition. Volunteers will need instruction with regard to the width to which vegetation will be cut back to create the trail corridor and the proper method for cutting among other details. A color for blazing the trail will need to be selected, Seth suggested blue as that is the typical color for marking trails that aren’t the Long or Appalachian Trail. Larry asked about training for volunteers and Seth said that would be included at the beginning of any work hike. Heather inquired about anticipated use of the trail and whether maintenance issues may arise and if we would need to budget funds for this. Seth said the trail is being laid out to minimize future maintenance needs and to be relatively easy to construct but some trail crew time will likely be necessary to complete construction. It should be possible to conduct ongoing maintenance mainly with volunteers.

Dave inquired whether others thought the open area with the limited view at the end of the flag line is a reasonable trail destination, at least in the interim and if it might be considered a phase 1 with an extension to the summit of Chase Mountain to follow. Seth thought this was a viable approach. A formal proposal to approve beginning to cut the trail will be brought to the October MCC meeting and if approved, a work hike will be scheduled to begin cutting the trail.

Access and parking for to the MTF was also discussed. Dave noted that the Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area parking area, owned by the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), has been used for parking but there is no formal agreement with DFW. In a conversation some years ago with DFW, Dave learned that DFW would potentially be amenable to the use of this lot as a joint parking area if the Town could support improvements to the parking area.

b. Winooski River Clean-up

This event is sponsored by Friends of the Winooski (FW) and scheduled for Saturday, September 10th. Lee has posted notice about the MCC participation on Front Porch Forum. Volunteers will meet at 8:30 at the Town owned Three Mile Bridge Road parcel and trash collected from the river will be transferred to a Town Highway Department truck for transport to the Casella transfer station. Lee will bring his canoe and another will be available from FW.

c. Town Forest Visit Exchange with Marshfield

No one present at the meeting participated in this event so this discussion will be taken up at the October meeting.

d. Three Mile Bridge Parcel

There is a need to conduct a meeting on this parcel to seek public input on the management of this Town owned parcel.

3. New/Other Business

Dave mentioned that Ann Greensfelder has donated her weed wrench for use by the MCC.

Adjournment: Seth motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Larry. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary