

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

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, August 4, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

Minutes

1. Administrative Operations

a. Approve previous meeting's minutes: George motioned to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2016 Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) meeting with a second from Lee. There was no discussion, minutes approved unanimously.

b. Treasurer's report: Heather is potentially interested in filling the Treasurer position; she will review the responsibilities and the MCC will likely fill this position at the September meeting.

c. Review correspondence: There was no correspondence.

2. Project Reports

a. Presentation from Shaina Kasper from the Toxics Action Center: Ms. Kasper is a Community Organizer for VT and NH with the Toxics Action Center (TAC). She described the role of TAC as working with community groups to address pollution issues. TAC focusses on four main areas:

1. Providing information on the practice and theory of how laws work.
2. Developing information on the pollution threats from emerging contaminants.
3. Connecting a community group with other community groups that are working on the same or similar issues and helping to connect these groups to expert assistance.
4. On the ground community organizing.

Examples of issues TAC has been involved with in VT include the Moretown Landfill and the Vermont Gas Company natural gas pipeline proposal.

TAC's main areas of interest are:

1. Pollution – particularly hazardous waste disposal sites.
2. Waste management including promoting recycling and moving toward zero waste generation.
3. Pesticides.
4. Energy use.

b. Middlesex Town Forest

Vermont Land Trust has mapped the GPS waypoint for the current terminus of the proposed hiking trail flagline and it appears to be within the Middlesex Town Forest (MTF) boundary with a little distance to spare. Further work on the flagline will be a topic for discussion at the September MCC meeting.

c. Shady Rill Park Update

There has been a suggestion of a sign to identify the Shady Rill Park. The park is currently owned by the state Department of Environmental Conservation but the town is considering taking over management of

the park on a trial basis next year. George will follow up with the Select Board on the issue of posting a sign to identify the park.

d. North Bear Swamp Road Dump Site

Lee contacted the Central Vermont Solid Waste District about the two sites on North Bear Swamp Road where trash has been dumped. The District would be able to provide up to \$300 for disposal costs with the Town providing labor and transportation. Lee recently checked the sites and found that the trash has been removed.

e. Winooski River Clean-up

Friends of the Winooski River sponsors an annual clean-up day for the Winooski River where volunteers wade sections of the river towing canoes or boats and pull trash from the riverbed. Lee has been in contact with Ann Smith of the Friends who suggested Middlesex do the 3 Mile Bridge area of the river for this year's event that will take place on September 10th. The Friends has funding to pay for tire disposal and the Town would be asked to pay for the remainder of the cost of disposing of trash collected from the river. Based on their experience the total disposal cost to the Town would likely not exceed \$200 (the cost per ton is \$145). Dave made a motion that the MCC expend up to \$200 from the MCC annual budget to pay for the cost of trash disposal from the Winooski River clean-up event. George provided a second and the motion was approved. The staging area for the clean-up will be the Town-owned parcel on 3 Mile Bridge Road. Dave and George will cut grass and weeds on the property prior to the event to facilitate access to the river and an area to stage the trash.

f. Town Forest Visit Exchange with Marshfield

Marshfield has invited Middlesex to visit their Stranahan Town Forest at 9:00 on August 28th. Interested persons can meet at the Middlesex Town Office and carpool from there to Marshfield.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard