

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, August 3, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Middlesex, VT

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Dick Alderman, Heather Katz, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard,
Guest: Mitch Osiecki, Middlesex Recreation Director

1. Administrative Operations:

a. Minutes of the June 1st Middlesex Conservation Commission Meeting

Lee moved to approve the minutes of the June 1st meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Heather. The minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

Lee has been reimbursed for \$141.94 for costs associated with trash disposal from the cabin cleanup on the Middlesex Town Forest. This hasn't shown up yet in the financial report that Heather has received. Heather said the MCC budget is overdrawn by \$269.97. Part of this is related to invoices from Michaud Landscaping and may be an error. Mitch thinks this may be for mowing of the recreational field adjacent to Rumney School, at Walt Kelley Park and at the 3 Mile Bridge Road parcel.

Lee noted that the MCC membership in the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) with an annual cost for dues of \$50 is up for renewal. Dave made a motion to approve renewing the MCC membership in the AVCC with a second from Dick. The motion was approved.

c. Correspondence

Lee said notification was received from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation that the MCC did not receive one of the Town Forest Recreation Planning Community Assistance Grants. He is working on setting up a call with Kate Forrer to discuss the MCC application.

2. Project Reports

a. Middlesex Town Forest

• Cabin:

George is looking into scheduling a visit to the cabin with any interested Select Board members. Dick suggested also checking with the Town Health Officer.

• MTF Trail:

There was a successful work outing in June to begin cutting the trail. The preliminary Lidar map that Larry Becker received from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission indicated that part of the flagline for the trail may have wandered off the Town Forest property onto the adjoining Rock property. The actual trail cutting done in June did not include the part of the flagline that is in question. Lee can provide a very accurate GPS unit to check the boundary and the flagline on the ground. Tentative dates for this were proposed for August 26th or 27th. A tentative date for another outing to continue cutting the trail route was proposed for September 16th.

- Educational Walk:

Suzanna Bliss is potentially interested in leading a walk, possibly on the Town Forest, focusing on wild edibles. Dick will follow up with her.

b. Shady Rill Park

The MCC has sent a letter of support for the application for an Ecosystem Restoration Grant being applied for by the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. The MCC would help coordinate Town resources that might be applied to assist with the project but no commitments have been made.

c. Friends of the Winooski Annual River Cleanup

Lee has been contacted about the MCC leading an event from the 3 Mile Bridge Road parcel on September 9th. The final location is yet to be determined, it could be a different site than the 3 Mile Bridge parcel starting point that was used last year.

Other Business

The MCC has heard concerns about some of the tree trimming that has been accompanying ditch work on McCullough Hill Road. It appears that some tree branches have been broken off with the bucket of the excavator leaving a splintered branch remnant rather than a clean cut that would heal better.

Dick said the Planning Commission is putting together a survey to aid in updating the town plan and would welcome any input from the MCC.

Mitch said the Mad River Boy Scout troop will be camping at the Walt Kelley Park as part of a three day outing along the Winooski River. Mitch is also interested in input on uses for the park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 with a motion from Lee and a second from Heather.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, Secretary