

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

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, Heather Katz, George Longenecker, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard

1. Administrative Operations:

a. Minutes of the August 3rd Middlesex Conservation Commission Meeting

George moved to approve the minutes of the August 3rd meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Heather. The minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

Heather reported that the MCC operating budget has \$500 while the Conservation Commission Special Fund, the Conservation Fund and the Town Forest Fund are unchanged except for small increases from interest. Discussion moved to the previous fiscal year budget that had shown the MCC budget overdrawn by \$269.97. This was due to two invoices from Michaud Landscaping that had been paid out of the MCC annual budget. Dave attended a recent Select Board meeting where this was discussed. The invoices were for brush hogging the town owned 3 Mile Bridge parcel and some invasive plant control on this property. The Select Board stated it had not intended for these invoices to be paid out of the MCC budget and it will be rectified by an internal funds transfer and the MCC budget should no longer show as overdrawn. It isn't clear what the invasive plant control involved and it was agreed this should be looked into further before next year's brush hogging is carried out.

c. Correspondence

The MCC received notice of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions Conservation Summit coming up in Starksboro on September 23rd. Lee noted there is money in the MCC budget to reimburse Commissioners for the cost of attending this meeting.

Both Lee and Dave had heard from residents of McCullough Hill Road who were concerned about how some trees were trimmed as part of the ditching project. In some instances branches were broken off with the bucket of an excavator leaving a jagged stub that would not heal properly. Lee had an opportunity to speak with Road Foreman Paul Cerminara and subsequent trimming has used a power pole saw and the trimming looks much better.

2. Project Reports

a. Middlesex Town Forest (MTF)

• Cabin:

The trail work hike planned for September 16th provides an opportunity to also invite Select Board members to visit the cabin as the MCC is interested in their views on the future of the cabin. George

offered to schedule a separate visit(s) with any interested Select Board members who can't make it on September 16th.

- MTF Management Plan

The update of the plan had been put on hold until the MCC learned whether the town would receive a grant from the Town Forest Recreation Planning Community Assistance Program. As Middlesex was not awarded one of the planning grants, the work on the update can proceed.

- MTF Trail:

The work hike on September 16th will include cutting out more of the flagline and using a high accuracy GPS unit to verify whether a portion of the flagline has ventured onto the adjoining Rock property. If it has, the flagline will be adjusted to bring it back within the MTF boundary. Depending upon the amount of progress made this fall on cutting the trail, it may be possible to apply for a trails grant from the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for trail crew time next field season for some of the heavier tread work.

- Lidar Mapping

Larry showed a map of the MTF produced by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) using Lidar data as well as some other examples of the styles of map that are possible using Lidar data. The MCC will need to consider what types of information about the MTF to depict on maps and the styles that might be most suited to displaying this information. Larry will continue to work with CVRPC on this project.

- Educational Walk:

No update at this meeting.

b. Shady Rill Park

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District has received the Ecosystem Restoration Grant they applied for concerning the Shady Rill Park. They will be setting up a stakeholder meeting, probably within a month. Maintenance at the park this year is being performed by a contractor hired by the State.

c. Friends of the Winooski Annual River Cleanup

Lee has lined up three canoes and a Town dump truck for this event on September 9th to be staged from the 3 Mile Bridge parcel. He has identified a better access point than that used last year with less of a steep slope to negotiate. The event is somewhat up in the air at this point due to high and turbid water in the Winooski due to recent rains. Lee will likely make a final call on whether to hold the event this year on the morning of the 9th.

Other Business

- The CVRPC and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is hosting a Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan meeting for the towns of Duxbury, Middlesex, Waterbury, Worcester and Montpelier at the Waterbury Municipal Building on Thursday, September 21st. Commissioners who expressed interest in attending were Dave, George and Lee.

- The Planning Commission is looking for input in putting together a survey to aid in updating the Town Plan. MCC members raised a number of questions including how many questions from the MCC

the Planning Commission might be looking to include in the survey and how it would be distributed. It was suggested that interested MCC members might attend a Planning Commission meeting when the survey will be discussed.

- Lee mentioned that Recreation Director Mitch Osiecki is interested in input on uses for the Walt Kelley Park. There was brief discussion of the recreational resources in town and how the Walt Kelley Park fits into the mix.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, Secretary

DRAFT