

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, October 5, 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 September 7th Middlesex Conservation Commission Meeting

George moved to approve the minutes of the September 7th meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Larry. The minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

Heather reported that the fees for brush hogging the 3 Mile Bridge parcel that had been unintentionally charged to the MCC operating budget were reallocated so the 2017 MCC budget will not show as overspent and they will have no effect on the 2018 operating budget. The Town will be providing funds balance statements to the various boards and commissions on a quarterly basis going forward. There was not a quarterly report prior to this meeting so there was no update on fund balances but they will be available for the next meeting.

c. Correspondence

Dave reported he had received a phone message inquiry from Elliot Burg about the land at the base of Mt. Hunger that is being advertised for sale. Dave left a return message briefly explaining that the MCC is aware of efforts to conserve the land by the Trust for Public Land using federal Forest Legacy funding but the current status of this effort is unknown to the MCC.

2. Project Reports

a. Middlesex Town Forest (MTF)

• MTF Management Plan

Lee said he wants to involve members of the MTF Stewardship Committee in the discussion of the update to the Management Plan and since none were in attendance at this meeting this topic will be rescheduled for a later meeting.

• MTF Trail:

Dates for the next work outing were proposed with October 28th or 29th seeming the best. Lee will check with Seth Coffey about his availability and will notify of the final date via email.

• Cabin:

George said he will be accompanying Select Board members Peter Hood and Mary Just Skinner to view the cabin and the cabin will be a topic at the next Select Board meeting. Lee said he has spoken with Town Health Officer Liz Fortman whose main concern had been the septic system if the cabin had one.

• LIDAR Mapping

Larry noted he has recently seen an example of a different style of map using the LIDAR data that may be useful for depicting the MTF. Larry will look into scheduling a session with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to look at various styles of map that could be used to show features of the MTF.

- Educational Walk:

The wild edibles walk that had been considered will likely have to wait until next year given the time of year. Dave has discussed a possible tracking/wildlife habitat walk with Middlesex resident and Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department employee John Austin that would probably be scheduled for late fall or the winter. Lee proposed the idea of a bio blitz type event for next year; potentially involving Chip Darmstadt who has experience with these at the North Branch Nature Center. We should also make sure Rumney School teachers are aware of the MTF as a resource.

b. Shady Rill Park

The stakeholder meeting for the Ecosystem Restoration Grant that the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District has received has yet to be scheduled.

c. Planning Commission Survey

The Planning Commission will be drafting questions for a survey to inform the Town Plan update and welcomes input from the MCC. Dave provided copies of the questions from the survey used for the last Town Plan update.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, Secretary