

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, January 10, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Office
Middlesex, VT

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Heather Katz, George Longenecker, Dell McDonough, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard

Guests: Mitch Osiecki – Middlesex Recreation Director/Planning Commission

1. Administrative Operations

a. Meeting Minutes from December 6th

Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) December 6th meeting with a second from Dell. The minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

Heather presented the following fund balances:

- Conservation Fund = \$4,030.40
- MCC operating budget = \$430.00
- MCC Special Projects Fund = \$864.72

Lee noted that Bill Rossmassler has made a donation to the Conservation Fund and asked that it be directed toward the Hunger Mountain Headwaters Project being carried out by the Trust for Public Land.

c. Correspondence

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) contacted the MCC to inform us that a component of the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan is a proposal to reclassify Herrick Brook and Martins' Brook. A representative of the CVRPC will attend the MCC February meeting to provide more information.

2. Project Reports

a. Emerald Ash Borer

A date for a training session in use of the app that can be used to map the locations of ash trees was discussed with the date likely to be sometime in February.

b. Middlesex Town Forest (MTF)

A snowshoe hike will be held on the Chases Mountain Trail on January 26th or 27th to be led by Lee.

Lee has spoken with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) about assessing the Chases Mountain Trail in terms of the amount of trail crew time likely to be needed to address heavier construction needs. This information will be helpful in applying for a Recreational Trails Grant for the 2020 field season. Based on the general description of the work required that VYCC has reviewed, the initial estimate is for two to four weeks of crew time; a site visit will

allow that estimate to be refined. If Middlesex receives a Recreational Trails Grant the town would pay VYCC up front but would be reimbursed from the Grant and there might be no cost to the town in the end. A determination needs to be made whether any State permits might be required for the trail construction. Dave will check with a Department of Environmental Conservation Permit Specialist. The cabin on the MTF could be useful for a VYCC trail crew as a base.

Lee suggested looking into whether the Town might be able to obtain approval to officially use the parking area for the Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area (MNWMA) from the Department of Fish & Wildlife if the Town did some work on improving the MNWMA parking area. It would be useful to know who currently keeps the area plowed in the winter. Dave noted that in a previous discussion during the drafting of the management plan for the MTF the State seemed open to this idea.

c. Three Mile Bridge Park

Greg Western from the Cross Vermont Trail Association has provided a mock-up of an information sign for the park and is looking for input. The sign will include historic photos and information about the area. Heather suggested involving the Historical Society in the review.

d. Shady Rill Park

Ann Smith, formerly with Friends of the Winooski, is working as a consultant with the Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District (WNRCD). They have some questions on town involvement for matching funds for the grant. Possibilities include labor for planting to be done as part of the restoration project or possible assistance from the town highway department. Lee provided MCC comments regarding the neighbors' stream crossing, concerns about the outhouse and closing off vehicle access to the portions of the park past the outhouse. Heather mentioned concerns that stream accesses and improvements that are put in will need to be maintained and that the owner of the property across Martins' Brook should have the opportunity to be involved as a stakeholder. Lee has an upcoming call with WNRCD on January 14th with the new Director of the WNRCD.

e. Rumney Gully

A stakeholder meeting is being set up by the WNRCD with Stone Environmental and the school district where two potential designs will be presented to address the eroded gully across from Rumney School.

Heather made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lee, and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary