

**Middlesex Conservation Commission  
Thursday, August 6, 2020  
Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom**

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**Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Sorsha Anderson, Larry Becker, Heather Katz, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Dell McDonough, Lee Rosberg, Jon Udis  
Guest: Britt Hasleton

Meeting called to order @ 7:05 pm

1. VLT Conservation Fund application/ Seidman-Harrower

a. VLT rep: Britt Hasleton presentation

Britt is requesting \$5000.00 from MCC to purchase & conserve Seidman-Harrower parcel. Nicole Duch is the potential buyer. Nicole has plans for a CSA, farm stand and agri-tourism events such as 'dinner at the farm with entertainment'. The funding from MCC would support Vermont Land Trust to purchase the development rights of the property at the agricultural value.

b. Ross asked about access to this parcel by Middlesex residents. George and Jon enquired if there were any established trails. We requested Britt to revise or provide an addendum to the application stating that public access will be considered. Britt thought Nicole would be agreeable to that. Lee offered to meet with Nicole if that would be helpful. Britt suggested Nicole attend September's MCC meeting. Britt hopes to have our decision on this grant by October.

c. If we do grant this request both Larry and Heather urges that we are clear to Middlesex residents that we are providing funds to VLT to conserve agricultural land. Middlesex residents may have access to trails and other natural resources.

d. Dell, George and Lee fully support this funding. The review and determination will be made at the September meeting. Then we will need to present it to Selectboard for their approval.

2. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Sorsha moved to accept June 4, 2020 minutes. George seconded. All approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

Conservation Commission Annual fund: 01-6-61-80-09: \$405.94.

Special Projects 07-1-00-01-00: \$998.48

MCC Conservation Fund 08-1-00-00.00: \$9,036.15

3. Project reports (point person shown in parentheses)

a. Middlesex Trail Group (Dave, George & Jon)

Jon reported that a VT Fish & Wildlife officer examined the culvert/beaver problem on E. Bear Swamp Rd. FWL officer has started to make this culvert beaver proof. Mary Nealon will offer to help Rumney School neighbors with improving the signage on their trails.

b. Wrightsville Trail/Boat Access (George)

George has spoken with Middlesex Town Health Officer re: boat access issues. There was concern about lack of toilet facilities and finding of human waste. George will follow up with her for an update.

c. Emerald Ash Borer (Sorsha)

Sorsha has not set up a Zoom training on using the EAB survey APP. She will follow up with Paul Cerminara about interest if surveying roads for ash trees. Sorsha declines to be point person for EAB program. At this time, EAB will be paused.

d. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

Lee gave update on Dave's meeting with Seth Coffey about trainings for benching & other trail work in the Middlesex Town Forest (MTF). Seth offered to train a small group of foremen for this work at the end of August or early September. Ross has signed up to be a foreman. Lee put up "leash your dog" and "be aware of traffic" signs.

No decision about parking. The State is still considering putting a new parking area beyond Bryan Redmond's house.

Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester will do a sight visit evaluating MTF for timber harvest. He plans on doing a site walk in late August or early September. He will be asked about working with Scott Beaudin who plans a timber harvest in late 2020 or 2021.

Sorsha checked into changing the speed limit on the Notch Rd. to limit the road dust that swirls up. A costly survey would be needed to change the posted speed. You can post a suggested speed with the permission of the town. Sorsha will discuss that idea with Steve Juiffre and other Notch Road residents to gauge their interest in posting suggested speeds on Notch Road.

e. Shady Rill Picnic Area (Heather)

Heather reported that there was some funding received. A work plan was being formulated but is now on hold due to the pandemic.

f. 3 Mile Bridge Road Parcel (Larry)

Larry reports that Greg Western of Cross Vermont Trail Association has completed the project.

The kiosk & sign are up; the name for the area on the kiosk is "The Wayside". The markers are at the buffer. There is a path down to a bench. Greg also mowed and will manage the invasive species.

4. Other Business

George recommends postponing discussion of the new plans for the Village until next month.

Larry attended a meeting of the Winooski Basin Clean Water Advisory Committee. He will share the report via email.

Ross shared a grant opportunity for up to \$5000. to remove and replace Ash trees. He will forward the info to the group.

Meeting convened at 8:20 pm

Minutes recorded by Dell McDonough, MCC Commissioner