

**MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, January 7, 2021**  
**Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom**

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**Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Dell McDonough, Dave Shepard and Jon Udis  
Guest: Michael Hill

1. Administrative Operations

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

a. Correspondence

George reported that Town Clerk Sarah Merriman informed the MCC that two donations were received for the Middlesex Conservation Fund totaling \$1520. She also said the report for the Commission to be included in the Middlesex Annual Report can be submitted up until January 13<sup>th</sup>. Jon will forward a report from the trails subcommittee and Dave will put together the report.

b. Minutes of December 3, 2020 Meeting

Jon made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from George. The minutes were approved.

c. Treasurer's Report

There were no updated financial numbers to report. A request for \$2500 to be appropriated to the Conservation Fund will be on the warning for Town Meeting; voting this year will be by Australian ballot due to COVID-19.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

a. Middlesex Trails Group (Jon, George and Dave)

There was no meeting in December, the next meeting will be on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

b. Manosh Property

The MCC received correspondence from the prospective purchasers of the three proposed parcels of the Manosh property. This correspondence included a letter from Nancy Wood and David Lein, the purchasers of the largest parcel (known as the Densmore parcel), describing their plans for the property and their willingness to invite the public on their land. Michael Hill is interested in working with any of the new landowners on conserving the parcels of the Manosh property and would like to be able to contact them. He reiterated the offer he made for the Densmore parcel included a commitment to public access to 200 acres with donation of 20 ridgeline acres to the State to add to the Putnam State Forest. George noted that correspondence received by the MCC becomes a public record and Michael is entitled to a copy of the letters or emails received from the prospective owners. Ross will forward the correspondence on to the Town Clerk and they will be available to anyone who requests them. Ross also shared

correspondence from the other two prospective buyers who expressed interest in attending a future meeting of the MCC.

Ross also noted that at a recent hearing of the Planning Commission the application for subdivision of the Manosh property was deemed incomplete by the Commission and will need to be resubmitted. The next meeting of the Planning Commission is on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

c. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

- Trail Maintenance: Dave gave an update on current trail conditions from a recent hike where he noted one blowdown that needs to be cleared and several instances where hikers have been cutting switchbacks. He and his hiking companions lightly brushed these in but more brushing in may be needed. Ross and volunteer sign maker Sarah Birgé installed trail signs on December 29<sup>th</sup>. The MCC is grateful to Sarah for making these signs!

- Parking: The Department of Fish & Wildlife is still interested in a new parking area beyond the last house on Notch Road but that would require the Town upgrading a portion of Notch Road beyond the current parking area from Class 4 to Class 3.

- Logbook: Dell has added pages for a trail register in the registration box.

A Motion to adjourn was offered by Larry with a second from Ross. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary