

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, April 1, 2021
Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen, Dell McDonough, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard and Jon Udis
Guest: Steve Juiffre

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of March 4, 2021 Meeting

Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Larry. The minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

The private donations of \$1520 have been posted to the Conservation Fund.

c. Town Email Address

The MCC now has a dedicated Town email address. Lee said that MCC email correspondence can either use this email account or Commissioners can copy any email correspondence to the account in order to create a public record. Jon inquired whether the Trail Subcommittee could also use this account or would they need to get their own? It seemed Select Board member Phil Hyjek would be the individual to check with; Jon will do so. The MCC email will need a standard disclaimer that all correspondence with the MCC is public information. Lee will set up a standard signature to include this disclaimer.

d. Correspondence

Michael Hill, David Lein and Nancy Wood all contacted Lee to request a recording of the March MCC meeting. David also requested a phone call with Lee but the phone call had not occurred as yet.

e. Sarah Birgé letter of interest to join the Conservation Commission

The MCC received a letter of interest to join the Commission from Sarah Birgé. She has joined another organization board whose meeting time conflicts with the MCC but would still be interested in serving on the MCC if it was possible to change our meeting time to other than first Thursdays. Discussion ensued about the potential and advisability of changing the meeting time. Jon said the same issue came up with the Trails Subcommittee and the decision was not to change the meeting time. Dave noted that the MCC meeting time is specified in the bylaws and changing it would require an amendment to the bylaws. Larry and Dell questioned changing the meeting time for someone not yet on the Commission. The decision was to not change the meeting time. Ross knows of another potential candidate and will contact that individual.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

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

Jon reported that at the last meeting the Trails Group discussed criteria to be used to assess existing Class 4 roads and legal trails. Several members reported on routes they had traveled. Larry inquired about the proposed trail along the Winooski River at Camp Meade and Jon said that Russ Bennett will attend the next Group meeting to provide an update on this project and the grant funding received.

b. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

- Trail Maintenance: Lee will draft and print a trail closure sign and coordinate with Bryan Redmond to have the sign installed.

- Parking: Lee will check with Select Board Chair Peter Hood about the official status of the overflow parking area at the Town gravel pit. There has been no response as yet to his inquiry about the potential for a trail to cross the Villeneuve property to connect the gravel pit with the MTF. Ross displayed a map depicting the locations of the MTF and the Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area (MNWMA). Dave will check with Bob Zaino, the new overseer of the MNWMA about posting the map on the information kiosk at the MNWMA parking area.

- Forest Management Plan: Lee contacted two consulting foresters, working on the adjoining Villeneuve and Beaudin properties, about drafting a forestry management plan update. Rose Beatty (Villeneuve forester) said she could write the plan but suggested checking into having the County Forester do the plan as they are authorized to do plans for municipalities. It is the understanding of the MCC that the Washington County Forester position is still vacant but Dave will check into this.

c. Green-Up Day Planning

Dell and Jon are co-leaders for Green-Up Day. Dell has prepared a write-up for Front Porch Forum. She asked for volunteers to take shifts staffing the drop off site at the Town garage. Volunteers for shifts were Dell, Lee, Dave, Jon, Ross, and Larry. Trash bags will be available ahead of time at the Town Office and Rumney School and at the Town Garage on Green-Up Day.

d. Amphibian Migration

Wendy Knapp has reported some action with migrating amphibians on March 31st.

3. New/Other Business

Larry brought up annual reporting on the Three Mile Bridge Wayside Park to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). He will contact Greg Western with the Cross Vermont Trail Association. No one was sure what time of year the report is due so Lee suggested reaching out to VHCB to verify our responsibilities.

Lee made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jon and the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary