

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, November 4, 2021
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Matt Schley, and Dave Shepard and Jon Udis

Guest: Penny Downen (pennydownen@comcast.net)

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of October 14, 2021 Meeting

George moved approval of the minutes of the October 14, 2021 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) as amended to indicate that it was Matt, rather than George who volunteered to bring the MCC budget and Conservation Fund request to the Select Board. The motion was seconded by Matt and the minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

No quarterly financial report this month.

c. Correspondence

Adrienne Magida was appointed as a new Commissioner by the Select Board.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

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

George said there was no news to report at this meeting from the Trails Group.

b. Shady Rill Park and Wrightsville (Matt and George)

George provided an update on the riparian restoration project. The work of constructing defined access points to the brook and revegetation has been completed. The work did not address the outhouse; the Select Board will be taking up this issue. George explained the unique ownership status of this park including that it isn't a state park. Penny expressed concern over a number of dead trees that might pose a hazard and who was responsible for addressing this. She was also concerned over the number of new trees planted in that they might not have sufficient room to grow and that there is less open grass area than previously. Penny is concerned about the condition of the picnic shelter; George stated there is no current plan for repairs or replacement. George will look into Penny's concerns and potential responses.

c. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

i. Forest management plan

Ross reported the new Washington County Forester has agreed to review the management plan for the Middlesex Town Forest and can provide comments. The plan is in need of an update; there are existing comments from 2016 that haven't been incorporated.

ii. Trail maintenance

George recently hiked about half the Chases Mountain Trail and found the trail in good condition. Ross will check with Brian Redmond on whether he is interested in continuing as trail steward for posting signage when the trail is closed.

iii. Town Forest Cabin

The cabin is in need of some interior clean-up due to mouse activity in the interior walls that are insulated. Ross suggested trying to complete this task in the late fall before there is significant snow and suggested the November 20th weekend as a possibility. Dave will visit the cabin to assess how much material might need to be hauled out.

d. Three Mile Bridge Wayside Park (Larry)

Larry said the park didn't look great over the summer as it was overgrown and some of the signs on the kiosk had been removed and left on the ground. Larry called Greg Western with the Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) who responded promptly with replacing the signs on the kiosk and mowing. Larry has been trying to contact the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board about the annual report.

Larry has also observed work on the new CVTA bridge over the Winooski along Route 2 just east of Montpelier. George suggested inviting Greg to a MCC meeting over the winter for an update on that project.

3. New/Other Business

None

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Dave, and the meeting adjourning at 7:46 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary