

**MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 7:00**  
**Meeting Conducted in Person and Via Zoom**

**Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen, George Longenecker, Adrienne Magida, Lee Rosberg, Dave Shepard and Jon Udis

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of November 10, 2022 Meeting

Minutes of the November 10, 2022 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) were reviewed. Jon moved to approve the minutes with a second from Larry, the minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

There were no financial updates.

c. Correspondence

The MCC received from Sky Barsch a draft for review of a notice to be posted to remind users of the Class 4 section of Notch Road and the Chases Mountain Trail to take with them the bags of dog poop they collect on their walks. The MCC approved the text of the notice and Matt Schley will follow up with Sky about going ahead and posting the notice.

The MCC received an email inquiry from Evelyn Prim, a resident of Meade Road, concerned about a neighbor filling in a wetland. Lee suggested she contact the neighbor about her concerns or she could report the issue to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for follow-up by an Environmental Enforcement Officer. Ms. Prim could also inquire about this potential violation with the DEC's Wetland Program.

An email suggestion was received from Patrick Wood about looking into a backcountry ski zone similar to what has been done by a Rochester/Randolph trails group. Lee noted that the development of such an area can lead to a lot of traffic and a need for parking. Further discussion involved the suitability of the terrain in Middlesex for such activity. The Middlesex Town Forest isn't particularly well suited to developing a backcountry skiing zone. There may be some opportunity on the Putnam State Forest; this would require approval from the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

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

The Trails Group has not met since the last MCC meeting. George reported that several MCC volunteers worked on removing two old bridges from a trail at the Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area. One bridge was completely dismantled while the decking was removed from the other but the supporting beams are still in place. With the presumed onset of winter weather, completion of this project will probably need to wait until spring.

Minutes of Trails Group Subcommittee meetings can be found at the What's Next Middlesex website: <http://www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org/meeting-minutes.html>

b. Wrightsville Beach Recreation District (George and Matt)

George reported that the member towns have approved the requested increase in funding for the District that will allow the Director position to go to full time. The District will vote on this change to the job at their December meeting.

c. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

George has contacted Peter Hood about visiting the cabin on the MTF but hasn't heard back as yet. He will reach out again.

d. Three Mile Bridge Wayside Park (Larry)

Larry has submitted the annual reports on the property required by the Department of Public Safety so the town is in compliance with this requirement. The old mailboxes that had fallen over are still on the ground.

3. New/Other Business

Lee and Ross brought up the topic of additional trails in the MTF such as a shorter loop trail that would be good for families with small children or people walking their dog that might not want to hike to the top of Chases Mountain. George suggested scouting out a shorter trail in the spring that could use the existing path that goes by the cabins and could then loop around to connect with the lower portion of the Chases Mountain Trail.

Jon did not have any updates as yet from Kate Alberghini, the statewide Green Up Coordinator, regarding the potential for Kingsbury Construction or Farm to You to provide a truck to haul tires collected on Green Up Day for disposal.

The next scheduled meeting of the MCC is on January 5<sup>th</sup>. There was some interest in exploring a different day than first Thursdays as the regular meeting time. Dave noted a change would require a change to the MCC bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary