

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 7:00
Meeting Conducted in Person and Via Zoom

Minutes

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

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of January 5, 2023 Meeting

Minutes of the January 5, 2023 meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) were reviewed. Jon made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Larry, the minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report

There were no financial updates.

c. Correspondence

Sandy Levine with the Planning Commission (PC) contacted the MCC to inform the MCC they are looking into wildlife, conservation, natural resources and outdoor recreation planning and inquired whether the MCC had conducted a natural resources inventory. The PC is looking to contract with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to do some mapping and didn't want to duplicate efforts. The MCC has not done a natural resources inventory beyond some inventory work on the Middlesex Town Forest. The MCC is interested in working with/supporting the PC in this endeavor; Matt will convey this to the PC.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

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

George reported that the trailhead signs are being manufactured by the sign maker and may have been completed. Road Commissioner Vic Dwire will be contacted about the details of sign placement. Actual installation will probably be in the spring.

A scouting trip is scheduled for February 19th to assess the potential to create a shorter trail alternative to the existing Chases Mountain Trail in the Middlesex Town Forest that would use the existing path to the cabins and loop around to connect with the lower portion of the Chases Mountain Trail.

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

b. Middlesex Town Forest (Dave and Ross)

The visit to check out the cabin in the Middlesex Town Forest (MTF) with Peter Hood is on hold for now. George suggested taking photos as an alternative. The second cabin is in pretty rough

shape. There was no update on the County Forester review of the timber management portion of the Middlesex Town Forest Plan.

c. Wrightsville Beach Recreation District and Shady Rill Park (George and Matt)

George reported the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board approved the Director position going to near full time. The District is looking to get a portable toilet installed at the boat launch this year. The portable toilet is complicated by the potential for flooding. Improvements planned for the park include to the disc golf course and new kayaks for rent.

d. Three Mile Bridge Wayside Park (Larry)

Larry will check with Greg Western with the Cross Vermont Trail Association about the status of updating the map posted on the kiosk to show the presence of the Wayside Park.

e. New Projects

Ross mentioned the natural resources inventory as a possible new project the MCC might assist with. Dave will check with Chip Darmstadt about potentially leading a bird walk in the MTF and Larry will contact Bob Popp about a botanical themed walk. Lee brought up the conservation potential of the Manosh Property; no one on the Commission knew the current status of the proposed subdivision of the property. He will check with Michael Hill and Vermont Land Trust about potential interest.

3. New/Other Business

Jon heard back from Kate Alberghini, the statewide Green Up Coordinator, that she hasn't gotten confirmation from Casella about a roll-off container for Green Up Day. Kingsbury Construction has offered a one ton truck and a driver for Green Up Day. Jon will follow up further on the truck. The MCC could probably pay for the tire disposal if necessary. Dave suggested checking with the Select Board as they has indicated a willingness in the past to provide additional funding if a specific need arose.

The MCC hasn't checked with the Select Board yet about the potential for a change in the meeting day to the fourth Tuesday of each month. Matt will check on this and there may be a vote to amend the bylaws to reflect a change in meeting day at the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary