MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 7:00 pm
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Larry Becker, George Longenecker, Adrienne Magida, Dave Shepard and Jon Udis

Guests: Kimberley Hagen

1. Administrative Operations
a. Minutes of March 26, 2024 Meeting
Jon moved approval of the minutes of the March 26th meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC), with a second from Larry. Adrienne noted one correction; the trail proposal Russ Bennett wanted to discuss with the Trails Committee was for a trail along the Winooski River in Middlesex Village rather than on the Galaxy property north of the interstate. With this correction the minutes were approved.

b. Treasurer's Report
Adrienne inquired about paying for a new trailhead sign for Bolduc Road/Dolan Road. George made a motion to pay up to $150 for the trailhead sign from the MCC budget with a second from Jon. The motion was approved.

2. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program
New England Consulting Engineers (consultant implementing the construction phase of this project) did a site visit on April 22nd of the 10 properties that are part of this project. Attendees included Larry, a stream alteration engineer from the Department of Environmental Conservation, a representative from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and a representative from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. One property on Zdon Road that involves a private pond and dam may no longer be eligible for funding due to some work being done before engineering design and approval were completed. There will be a meeting on May 1st with landowners to discuss the work to be done at each location.

3. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)
a. Trails Committee (Adrienne, Dave, George, and/or Jon)
A walk to assess Bushey Road is scheduled for May 11th at 9:30 a.m.

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

b. Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area and Shady Rill Park (George)
George will send Adrienne contact information for Aric Brown who is the new Middlesex representative on the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board.

c. Middlesex Town Forest (Ross and Dave)

The proposed loop trail in the Middlesex Town Forest was approved by the Select Board.

d. Japanese Knotweed Project
Adrienne has contacted Collin O'Neal, manager of Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area, about approval to manage the knotweed at Shady Rill Picnic Area but hasn't heard back yet. Jon has spoken with Don Hirsch about a patch of knotweed on Upper Barnett Hill Road across from Don's house that might be a demonstration site. Adrienne will schedule site visits for these two sites.

3. New/Other Business
a. Green Up Day
The Select Board has approved paying for the roll-off container from Casella to be located at the Green Up drop-off site at the auxiliary fire station. Bolduc Metal Salvage will be providing a roll-off container for metal. The town will receive a $500 grant from the Central Vermont Solid Waste District for disposal of tires that are collected from roadsides. Jon will offer that tires will be available should a farmer want them. Trash bags will be available at Rumney School and the Town Office. Rumney has sent a notice to school families regarding Green Up and Jon will post a notice on Front Porch Forum. He has emailed Kingsbury Construction to inquire whether they might be able to provide a truck and driver like last year but hasn't received a reply yet. He has also contacted Ursula Stanley about the Girl Scouts providing a refreshment table as they have done in past years. Shifts were assigned at the drop-off as follows: Jon at 8 a.m., Dave at 9 a.m., George at 10 a.m. and Larry at 12 p.m., leaving 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to be filled.

b. Chases Mountain Trail Workday
A spring walk-through of the trail is scheduled for May 19th at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be on May 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.
Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary