Middlesex Conservation Commission
Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Adrienne Magida, Ross Lieblappen, Dave Shepard and Jon Udis

1. Administrative Operations
a. Minutes of April 22, 2025 Meeting
Jon made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22nd meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Ross. The minutes were approved.

b. Finance Report
Ross reported there are no financial updates.

c. Mad River Path
Adrienne reported there was a recent meeting of the advisory committee with the consultant working on the plan for the path.

d. Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program
Adrienne provided an update that all of the site visits for the 2024 flood sites have been scheduled with the NRCS engineers. The money for the 2024 projects is still available.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)
a. Trails Committee (Adrienne, Dave and/or Jon)
The Wrightsville Beach Recreation District is looking for volunteers to do some basic maintenance on their trail system. Several members of the Trails Committee have walked the trails. Committee members also joined with representatives from the Worchester Trails Group to walk a potential route to connect the existing Ellis-Bruce Trail to Wrightsville Reservoir.

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

b. Chases Mountain and White Rocks Mountain Work Outings
Dave reported that walk-throughs have been completed on both the Chases Mountain Trail (CMT) and White Rocks Mountain Trail (WRMT). All blowdowns were cleared from the CMT and all but one large blowdown, that will require a chainsaw, were removed from the WRMT. Another work day will need to be scheduled to paint blazes on the WRMT.

c. Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area and Shady Rill Park (Aric Brown)
The Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board has been meeting twice a month and the park is open for the season. There is some brush clearing to be done that park staff could use help with.

d. Middlesex Town Forest Loop Trail

Adrienne will reach out to Sage Romey about an outing to fine tune the flagged route for the proposed Loop Trail.

e. Japanese Knotweed
There was a meeting with interested community members on May 21st to discuss options for controlling knotweed in Middlesex. A work outing was scheduled for May 29th for the town gravel pit on Notch Road to initiate control efforts at that site. The work at the gravel pit has been approved by Road Foreman Eric Metevier.

c. Middlesex Town Forest (Ross and Dave)
The Chases Mountain Trail is currently closed for mud season. Adrienne has prepared a sign to be posted on the kiosk with information for trail users to report trail issues.

5. New/Other Business
a. Community Fair
Adrienne attended the Community Fair with a poster describing activities of the MCC.

b. Green Up Day:
Jon had asked MCC members who staffed the drop off site on Green-Up Day if anyone had observed several mattresses and a pile of shingles brought to the site. No one had seen these items so it seems they were dropped off sometime after 3:00 p.m. on Green-Up Day before the dumpster was hauled off. There is a concern that these items were likely not collected from the roadside and the y resulted in an additional disposal charge to the town. The Town Clerk had asked Jon about possibly posting a message on Front Porch Forum (FPF) about this issue. After some discussion, the MCC felt the best path forward would be to include a reminder about Green-Up being for roadside trash only next year when the Green-Up notification is posted on FPF. Jon noted that a unique aspect of this year's event was that Ben Jessup cleaned up the shores of Wrightsville Reservoir from his boat.

b. MCC Vacancy
Jon has spoken briefly with Kurt Budlinger and Katy Farber about the vacancy on the MCC and he plans to meet with them to follow-up.

c. Community Resilience for the Waterbury Area (CReW)
This organization that has worked on flood recovery and resilience is looking for a Middlesex representative to serve on their mitigation committee. Jon may be interested.

d. June MCC Meeting
Historically, the June meeting has been an outdoor potluck dinner with a short business meeting. This year it will be a standard meeting and there may be an outdoor potluck meeting later in the summer.

e. Great Brook Study
Larry Becker contacted Adrienne prior to this meeting to report that he would be meeting later in the week with the Great Brook Study Group including Mike Kline and the Vermont Geological Survey.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 24, 2025

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary

DRAFT