Middlesex Conservation Commission
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

Minutes

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

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

b. Finance Report
Ross reported there are no updates to fund balances. The previously approved Japanese knotweed informational signs have been printed and the fee was $90.

c. Mad River Path
Mad River Path has submitted a project scoping report to Vtrans who provided some minor comments. There will be a public meeting in October to present the report.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)
a. Trails Committee (Adrienne, Dave and/or Jon)
The Trails Group did not meet in August. Dates were discussed for a blazing outing on the White Rocks Trail with September 29th selected; Dave will coordinate with Jesse Hoover of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

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 (Aric Brown)
There are two trail adopters for the trails at Wrightsville who have been clearing the footpath. The trail from the beach to the boat launch is clear; much progress has been made on the route from the boat launch to the dam with some work remaining. Another work outing will be scheduled in a couple of weeks.

c. Middlesex Town Forest (Ross and Dave)
Additional flagging has been hung on the proposed route for the new loop trail and the line is now easy to follow. Dave has contacted Seth Coffey to see if he has time to review the route but hasn't heard back yet.

d. Japanese Knotweed
Adrienne is interested in finding someone who might want to lead the effort at knotweed control. Jon checked with the Berlin Conservation Commission about their experience with using herbicide. They

had Michael Brown come for a day and do a training and herbicide application day. He will follow up further with the Department of Agriculture and Michael Brown.

3. New/Other Business
a. Cabin in the Middlesex Town Forest
There was discussion of a public meeting, likely as part of the September MCC meeting, to assess the future of the former Ott cabin.

b. New Members for the MCC
Ross knows of someone who might fill one of the current MCC vacancies and Adrienne will check with Sage Romey.

c. Riparian Buffer Project
Ross attended a workshop sponsored by Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and the Department of Environmental Conservation to assess a riparian planting done about ten years ago along the Winooski River on property adjacent to the Welch Park. The project involved planting over 300 trees and shrubs in an area about 75 feet wide along the river. The workshop was to document how successful the planting is ten years in. The project obtained a high score as the plantings showed good survival. There was some evidence of invasive species among the plantings including one small patch of knotweed.

Next Meeting: September 30, 2025
Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary

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