Middlesex Conservation Commission
Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Meeting Conducted in Person at Middlesex Town Office

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Adrienne Magida, Kimberly Hagen, Dave Shepard and Jon Udis
Guests: Katy Farber and Sage Romey

1. Administrative Operations

This meeting began with a site visit at the former Ott cabin on the Middlesex Town Forest at 5:00 p.m. The meeting, including the site visit was noticed on Front Porch Forum and members of the public were invited to attend to view the cabin with further discussion of the fate of the cabin to follow during the meeting at the Middlesex Town Office. Participants in the site visit were Adrienne, Jon, Dave, Katy and Sage.

Following the site visit the meeting resumed at the town office at 6:47 p.m.

a. Minutes of the August 26, 2025 Meeting
Kimberly made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26th meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Jon. The minutes were approved.

b. Finance Report
No financial update was available.

c. Town Forest Cabin
The site visit resulted in a general assessment that the cabin appears to be generally structurally sound with no evidence of any roof leakage. The inside is in need of a good cleaning and there is still some old insulation that should be removed due to rodent activity. Katy asked whether the cabin might be of interest to Vermont Huts and Trails (VHT)? While many details would need to be considered and the Select Board consulted before any potential project with VHT, all agreed it was worth an inquiry to see if they might have any interest. Adrienne will contact VHT.

d. Mad River Path
A public meeting/celebration is scheduled for October 1st. New action committees will be established to carry on with the next phases of the project.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

a. Trails Committee (Adrienne, Dave and/or Jon)
Mitch Osiecki has installed Hunger Mountain Trail road signs to guide users to the trail head. Joanne Mankoff has been overseeing work on the trails at Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area. The trail from the boat launch to the beach is cleared and open. The route from the boat launch to the old boat launch road is cleared. The persistent puddles on North Bear Swamp Road are still present despite the drought. Several years ago the town had indicated willingness to do some work to address this wet area before

the two years of flooding caused so much damage to roads in Middlesex. The Committee will work with the town to try to improve passage through the wet area.

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)
No update beyond the trail work mentioned above.

c. Middlesex Town Forest (Ross and Dave)
Sage reported on a recent work outing where several blowdowns on the woods road were cleared and a portion of new trail corridor was cut.

d. Japanese Knotweed
Kimberly provided an update on progress in the Mad River valley on knotweed control. The upland areas that had been targeted have been pretty well cleared in Warren and they will begin to work there way down towards the Mad River. Much of the clearing was done with goats at a cost of about $10,000. Herbicide has also been used in some areas. The project involved 18 goats and a couple of guard dogs for the goats. A key takeaway was working from the uplands down toward the Mad River so there isn't a constant source of plant fragments moving downhill. Jon contacted Michael Brown, the consultant who worked with the Berlin Conservation Commission, his fee is $100/hour. He also spoke with the Vermont Department of Agriculture about what is involved with becoming certified to apply herbicides. Certification is a significant process and certification is required to apply herbicides on public land.

3. New/Other Business
a. New Commission Members
Sage is interested in joining the Commission and has provided a letter of interest. Jon made a motion to recommend to the Select Board that she be appointed as a commissioner with a second from Kimberly. The motion was approved.

Next Meeting: October 28, 2025
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary