Middlesex Conservation Commission
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Adrienne Magida, Ross Lieblappen, Sage Romey and Dave Shepard
Guests: Katy Farber and Lyra Turner

1. Administrative Operations

a. Minutes of the September 30, 2025 Meeting

Adrienne made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 30th meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) with a second from Sage. The minutes were approved.

b. Finance Report
Select Board Chair Liz Scharf has inquired about the MCC's annual operating budget as the Select Board will be starting to develop the town budget. Adrienne told Liz the MCC budget is very similar from year to year and normally the MCC has submitted a memo with the budget request but has not attended a Select Board meeting to present the budget. She will check with Liz about requesting money for the Conservation Fund since last year the request was not added to the warning for Town Meeting due to it being a challenging budget year. Dave made a motion to request $500 for the operating budget for the MCC, a second was provided by Sage. The motion passed with all in favor.

c. Municipal Planning Grant Application
The Middlesex Planning Commission is applying for a grant to fund updating the Town Plan, including updating the natural resources section and including the Great Brook Futures Project. They are looking for support from the MCC. Dave made a motion to support the Planning Commission grant application with a second from Sage. The motion passed with all in favor.

d. Mad River Path
The final meeting of the scoping committee is October 29th. A new committee will be formed to implement the plan for the path. Adrienne and/or Kimberly Hagen may join the new committee as Middlesex needs to have representation.

e. Town Forest Cabin
Adrienne contacted Vermont Huts and Trails and filled out an application about possibly repairing the cabin in the Middlesex Town Forest (MTF). They replied that they don't currently have funds to rehabilitate the cabin but did offer to meet with Adrienne to discuss potential options.

2. Project Reports (point person shown in parentheses)

a. Trails Committee (Adrienne, Dave and/or Jon)

Work has continued on cutting the trail corridor for the new loop trail on the MTF with a work outing earlier in the day.

Adrienne reported on the topics discussed at the most recent Committee meeting. There was an update on progress made on the Wrightsville Recreation Area trail system. Adrienne talked with Road Foreman Eric Metevier about the persistent puddles on a section of North Bear Swamp Road that make passage by pedestrians or cyclists challenging. He recalled a previous discussion about this issue and the Town will address the wet area to improve passage.

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)
The Recreation Area had a successful season and user fees have helped with funding issues. The frisbee golf course has been repaired from flood damage and trails have been improved. A Tool trailer has been purchased to facilitate moving tools to higher ground if flooding is anticipated. New kayaks were purchased for rental to park patrons.

c. Japanese Knotweed
Adrienne reported that Brian Prendergast does not want to take on organizing a knotweed control program. Sage offered that she has experience with control efforts with Himalayan blackberry and has some interest in the knotweed project. Adrienne summarized the MCCs' efforts to date on knotweed control.

3. New/Other Business

a. MCC Member Terms
Adrienne asked if there was a record of when members terms expire. Ross replied that he could locate the record from past meeting minutes.

b. New Commission Member
Katy Farber has submitted an email expressing her interest in joining the MCC that Adrienne read aloud. Ross proposed and Dave seconded a motion to recommend Katy's appointment to the Select Board. The motion was approved with all in favor.

Next Meeting: November 25, 2025

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, MCC Secretary

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