MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 25, 2025
7:00 Meeting Conducted by Zoom
Minutes - DRAFT

Commissioners Present: Adrienne Magida, Kimberly Hagen, Larry Becker, Ross Lieblappen
Guests: Aric Brown, Mayla Landis-Marinello

Administrative Operations

Review previous meeting minutes 10-28-25 - We did not take a vote on the minutes as we did not have a quorum. It will be added to the January agenda.

Finance report - The Select Board has approved the operating budget of $500 to be included in the 2026-2027 town budget. They also approved a special article for $5000 to be added to the Conservation Commission fund. We do not need to get signatures for that special article. Ross reported the operating budget stands at $404.37, the Conservation Commission money market fund is $1025.38 and the Conservation Commission fund is $31,236.58. The operating fund money does not carry over but the other two funds do carry over from year to year. There was a question about where the moneymarket fund money came from. Ross said Dave Shepard would remember.

Mad River Paths - Adrienne reported that the committee is transforming into a design and implementation committee which will meet in Waitsfield the first Wednesday of the month at 4:00. Both Adrienne and Joanne Mankoff will attend the December meeting.

Town Forest Cabin - Adrienne had a zoom meeting with RJ Thompson of the Vermont Huts and Trails. Vermont Huts and Trails is not interested in the Middlesex cabin because it does not connect with the other huts in their network (Velemont Trail) and they have limited resources. RJ is willing to be a consultant/thought person as we move forward with ideas for the cabin. He suggested we get a contractor to look at the building and provide a list/estimate of the areas that need work and the cost to do that work. Other things to think about would be sanctioned overnight parking, outhouse facilities and heating options. If we chose to go the route of making the cabin habitable, he then suggested we figure out a fundraising/grant plan. If the cabin became habitable Vermont Huts would be able to do the administration of renting the cabin out. They would keep 10% of the revenue for administrative costs and the rest would go to the town. If we should decide to tear down the cabin he asked that we reach out to him again before we do that.

Culvert Monitoring volunteer project - Mayla Landis-Marinello, a senior at U-32, shared a project she is working on. She is looking for volunteers to monitor culverts around Middlesex twice a year, take pictures of them and upload the pictures and comments to an app which the road crew will have access to. She is asking if the Conservation Commission would be willing to coordinate the volunteers twice a year so there is a system to continue the work once she graduates and goes off to college. She already has 11 volunteers to monitor the culverts. The coordinator would join her in a volunteer orientation, send two emails a year and communicate with the Dartmouth group that developed the app, and CREW (a flood awareness group focused on Middlesex, Wasterbury and Duxbury) which also expressed interest in the project. Mayla has been in contact with the Middlesex Roads Committee and Hilton Dier is the point person from that committee. Adrienne asked if the CC was interested in this project and the answer was yes, definitely. Adrienne will take on the work of contacting volunteers until, if and when, someone else expresses an interest.

Project Reports

a. Middlesex Trails Group Update - A group worked on clearing the Loop Trail along the old road up until the trail goes off into the woods. Work has been stopped until spring due to snow on the ground. Eric Metivier is going to address the puddles on Bear Swamp Road in the next few weeks.

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

b. Shady Rill & Wrightsville - Aric Brown attended the meeting and reported that 2025 was a good season at Wrightsville. There was a good crew of staff and volunteers. FEMA grants from 2023 came through and Jane Dudley was able to buy two trailers, one for tools and one for collecting fees. These trailers can be moved to higher ground if necessary by an electric truck she was able to acquire. There is a canoe and kayak trailer and the boats are all stored for the winter. The small pavilion is being rebuilt and the area is closed except for frisbee golf. In December fees for the towns next year will be discussed at the Wrightville Recreation Area meeting. There are plans for a volunteer recognition at some point in the future.

c. Loop Trail - next steps - see above

d. Terms for members - Ross reported on what he thinks is accurate information for terms for Conservation Commission members.

- Larry Becker and Jon Udis - 2023-2027
- Dave Shepard and Kimberly Hagen - 2024-2028
- Adrienne Magida, Katy Farber and Sage Romey - 2025-2029
- Ross Lieblappen and Lee Rosberg - 2022-2026

At the January meeting Dave Shepard and Adrienne Magida need to be reappointed for their terms. It was suggested Adrienne's term be switched to 2026 - 2030 because Lee will not be reappointed in 2026.

In the future members should be reappointed to their terms during the March meeting.

Next Meeting: January 27, 2025

Minutes recorded by Adrienne Magida, MCC Chair