Joint meeting of
Middlesex Trails Committee and
Middlesex Conservation Commission
Monday, April 13, 2026
Minutes - Draft

Attending: Adrienne Magida, Michael Levine, Joanne Mankoff, Dave Shephard, Mitch Osiecki, Sven Coeyne, Sage Romey, Jon Udis, Ross Lieblappen, Jane Dudley

Discussion of draft letter to Select Board regarding upcoming hearing to consider upgrading a section of Class 4 road to Class 3. Vote likely by Conservation Commission and Trails Committee - The MTC and MCC discussed two drafts of a letter to the Select Board regarding the upcoming hearing to upgrade a section of South Bear Swamp from Class 4 to Class 3. After discussion it was decided to use the draft Michael Levine penned adding to Dave and Ross's draft and add the last paragraph from the draft written by Dave Shepard and Ross Lieblappen.
A motion to submit to the Select Board a letter regarding upgrading the Class 4 section of South Bear Swamp Road to Class 3 from the Conservation Commission and the Trails Committee was moved by Jon Udis and seconded by Ross Lieblappen. Motion carried.

The Conservation Commission meeting adjourned and the Trails Committee meeting continued.

Dave Shepard and Joanne Mankoff seconded approval of the meeting minutes for March 9, 2026. Motion carried.

Trails on the east side of Wrightsville follow-up - Jane Dudley reported the land on the east side of the Wrightsville Reservoir is owned mostly by the State. WEC leases part of the land and there are a few small parcels that are privately owned. Jane suggested we contact Ben Greene who works for the ANR and is her liaison for questions for the State. We will also check with Kimberly Hagen to hear what she knows about the potential for trails on the other side. Jane offered to play an oversight role or an administrative function if necessary if we pursue trail development on the east side.

Possible guided walks/hikes with Green Mountain Club in Middlesex with Phyllis Rubenstein follow-up - It was decided to ask Phyllis if she would be willing to lead a walk on the improved Wrightsville trails starting at the boat launch and heading to the beach, returning and then heading to the dam. It would be billed as a spring nature and wildflower walk in May. Joanne will reach out to Phyllis.

Possible maps and signs for Wrightsville - We have a person willing to make maps of the trails. Mitch will coordinate dates to walk the trails and let everyone know when he has a few dates.

Follow-up on walk on trails on South Bear Swamp - Three people walked with Mike Hill on his property on South Bear Swamp. He is willing to make his trails open to the public. Joanne will check with East Montpelier and Calais to see if they have private landowners sign agreements when they are opening their land to public trails.

Possible dates for Chases Mountain spring clean up and Loop Trail work - Work day on Chases Mountain is scheduled for Saturday May 16 with a rain date of May 17.
Work on the loop trail is scheduled for Monday, May 11. We will reach out to the list of volunteers willing to help on trail.

Update on Conservation Commission - There was discussion about the future of the Town cabin and whether to renovate the building. There was information about Green-Up Day.

Joanne asked for a review of the Trails Committee work plan to see where we are and what we have added and completed.
Michael informed us that work on the new Town website is moving along and there should be a draft website to share with town officials in the next few months. It would allow us to post our own minutes and agendas. Most of the What's Next Middlesex website will migrate over to the Town website.

The next meeting will be on May 11, 2026, second Monday of the month.

Adjourn