

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting January 8, 2004
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Middlesex Town Hall, Middlesex, Vermont

Attendees*

Dave Shepard Rick Paradis Barry Goodman
Bill Rossmassler Duncan Nichols

Call to Order

7:00 PM

Approval of Minutes

December minutes were approved unanimously after brief discussion and amended.

Treasures Report

☞ There has been no change since last month: Conservation Fund budget: \$1766.99
Keeping Track: \$207.60.
Town Moneys: \$941.88

Conservation Fund

☞ Discussion on the policy of the Conservation Fund. The final decision will be made after members meet with the selectboard members next Tuesday. Dave will be drafting the petition for extending the Fund to the residents of Middlesex to be placed on the ballot at Town Meeting.

Annual Report

☞ The Conservation Commission's annual report was presented and approved for the annual Town Report.

Mail

☞ Mailings were presented, gone over and approved for file.

Planning Commission

☞ Zoning districts were presented and thoroughly discussed. The Conservation district received the most interest. Minimum acreage was adjusted to 27 acres to include the base home unit. Many conditional uses were discussed and noted in all districts and will be presented to the Planning Commission.

Great Brook

☞ Great Brook flood plain was discussed. Areas of this plain should perhaps be change to "Erosion Hazard Areas". Bill is to draft a letter to the state to inquire how this can be accomplished.

Tree Grant

☞ Judy will be working on additional tree grants that may be available.

Friends of the Worcester Range

☞ The next Worcester Range meeting will be in February.

Approval of Minutes

Heather Furman, Secretary

**Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting, February 5, 2004
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Middlesex Town Hall**

Attendees

Bill Rossmassler	Judy Keyes	
Barry Goodman	Dave Shepard	John Austin
Rick Paradis	Heather Furman	

Call to Order

7:11 pm

Housekeeping

- Minutes for January 2004 were unanimously approved after review and discussion. Heather, Bill and Dave discussed getting the minutes posted on the Middlesex town website. Heather agreed to send finalized versions to Tim Murphy
- Correspondences: Bill shared correspondences.
- March 2nd is Town Meeting Day. 5-7 pm. Bill & Heather will make a poster of the design charrette for Town Meeting.

New Commissioners

- There was a short discussion on potential new commissioners. Dave agreed to make a contact first, and we will also draft a poster for Town Meeting to advertise a vacancy.

Treasurers Report

- Discretionary budget currently stands at \$941.88. This money is budgeted through June 30, 2004. The MCC budget stands at \$1974.59.

Committee Discussions

MCC Assistance to MPC on Zoning Update

Bill handed out a draft of the new zoning regulations for review and comment. The Commissioners should look at anything that is natural resource related and make comments by next meeting.

The Commissioners also reviewed a draft map of the zoning regulations and discussed the RR10, MR 2 and Conservation Districts. There was general agreement that Conservation District should be zones 27 acres to fit with the State's Current Use program.

Tree Grant

Judy discussed planning for the next grant round. The removal of dead and hazardous trees on the Morse property is proposed. She will submit the grant by February 20th. Reimbursement issues were also discussed.

Friends of Worcester Range

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2004. Elmore will vote at Town Meeting to establish a conservation Commission. Morristown and Middlesex will vote to establish a conservation fund.

Conservation Fund

Bill will look into whether or not donations to the conservation fund are tax exempt. Heather suggested drafting a post card to mail to the grand list to asking for support of this fund. She volunteered to follow through on this.

Dave will contact Virginia Rasch at the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions to get names of contact people in other towns that have town conservation funds. Commission members can then contact these people to get information about the conservation funds in their towns. This information will be used to help fill out the matrix that Bill has prepared. Dave will email commission members with the list of towns and contact people.

There was discussion about preparing some form of poster or other material about the conservation fund that could be posted at Town Meeting.

Town Owned Land Along the Winooski River

Dave suggested a visit to the town land along the Winooski River in the Welch Industrial Park as part of the April or May MCC meeting. The purpose would be to assess whether there might be some work that the MCC could perform that would enhance the wildlife habitat value and public access of this property. Possible projects might include: putting up bird nesting boxes, exotic species control (if this is currently a problem) and defining a footpath to access the river.

Other Business

Barry mentioned recreational corridors as something the MCC might take up. Bill said we could apply for grants for this type of project including a municipal planning grant. It might also be possible to involve the Friends of the Worcester Range in this.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting is schedule for Thursday March 4th.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting March 4, 2004
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Middlesex Town Hall
Middlesex, Vermont

Attendees*

Duncan Nichols	Judy Keyes	Heather Furman
Bill Rossmassler	Rick Paradis	Barry Goodman

Guests: Ron & Anita Krauth

Call to Order

7:16 pm

Approval of Minutes

February minutes were approved unanimously after brief discussion. Heather will send these to Tim Murphy to be posted on the Middlesex town website.

Treasures Report

- ☞ No reported change since last month: Conservation Commissions budget: \$1974.59. Discretionary budget 941.88
- ☞ Heather, Bill and Judy submitted receipts for photocopies and mailing of postcards for the Conservation Fund, and Tree Grant material.

Correspondences

- ☞ Bill announced the AVCC Annual Meeting to be held on April 3, 2004 in South Royalton.

Committee Reports

Resource Planning

- ☞ Please see “Other Business/Upcoming Meetings”

Village Action Committee

- ☞ Heather gave a brief overview on the status of the Design Charrette report, which was completed by Diane Gayer this week. A copy of the Report was on display at Town Meeting. Several Commissioners were provided with copies, and hard copies and CD’s are available for distribution.
- ☞ Bill mentioned that the Vermont Design Institute would like to do follow-up on the Middlesex Village Charrette.
- ☞ There was considerable discussion on how best to promote the recommendations in the Charrette as the town moves forward with the Village Needs Analysis. Heather and Bill agreed to draft a letter to the Selectboard as cover to copies of the Report. Commissioners also discussed writing summary letter to send to the Monthly.
- ☞ Heather gave a brief update on the Moretown quarry proposal that could bring as many as 80 trucks per day through the village. She encourages the Commissioners to log on to the Mad River Neighborhood Association website www.mrna.org to view details about the proposal. The proposal is scheduled to be presented to the Moretown Development Review Board (DRB) in March. Once the proposal is outlined, Heather will summarize the report and draft a letter of concern for the Selectboard/MPC/MCC review.
- ☞ Heather and Judy will begin to work on village landscaping.

Community Forestry Committee

- ☞ Judy has submitted the tree grant to the Department of FP&R. The grant is to conduct an inventory of trees on the Morse property. This information will also be presented to the Selectboard for informational purposes as related to the Need Analysis for the village. Grant award recipients may be notified as early as March 20th, 2004.

Wildlife Monitoring

- ☞ There was discussion on the upcoming spring salamander crossing season. Last year, John Austin and Annie Greensfelder helped coordinate a phone tree to alert interested parties when early spring rains bring salamanders out onto the roadways. It is anticipated that this effort will be coordinated this year as well.

Friends of Worcester

- ☞ The Friends of the Worcester Range held their Quarterly Meeting in late February at the Elmore Town Hall. At Elmore Town Meeting, a Conservation Commission was officially established and now all 6 towns in the Range have a Commission. As a result of Town Meeting, 3 of the 6 towns in the range have Conservation Funds, including Middlesex.
- ☞ The Quarterly Meeting was well attended, particularly by those in Elmore. The major issues that were covered included the establishment of sub-committees, and possibly hosting a Land Trust Summit for various parties that can help facilitate the work of FWR.
- ☞ Bill will send a thank you letter to the Elmore Store for providing refreshments for this meeting

Conservation Fund

- ☞ Thank you to the voters of Middlesex for supporting the Conservation Fund! Bill did a commendable job explaining the purpose and potential use of the fund to town voters.
- ☞ There was considerable discussion on what we heard at Town Meeting from the community, and their points of concern. Public access was an overriding theme that will need special attention when putting together a set of criteria for review. There is also a need for continued education and outreach regarding how conserved land relates to taxes. Several individuals expressed their concern that conservation parcels would raise taxes. There have been a number of studies done that show that conservation land actually has the potential to reduce taxes.
- ☞ Several Commissioners have gathered information from surrounding towns on how their Conservation Funds are used. A sub-committee will be established in the ensuing months to review this material and begin outlining how the MCC Fund will be used. Members of the public, the Selectboard, and Planning Commission will be invited. Commissioners were also asked to come to the next meeting with names of people who might be interested in serving on this committee.
- ☞ Heather will either draft or ask John Austin to help draft a Thank You letter to the town to be published in the Middlesex Monthly.

Water Quality/Great Brook

- ☞ There was no report from the Water Quality Committee this month.

Conservation Education

- ☞ There was no report from the Conservation Education Committee this month.

Waste Management

- ☞ There was no report from the Waste Management Committee this month.

Recreation Trails

- ☞ There was no report from the Recreation Trails Committee this month.

Other Discussion/Upcoming Meetings

☞ Sandy Levine will attend the April meeting, Commissioners should review the resources related sections of the Interim Zoning by next month.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm

Approval of Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting April 1, 2004
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Middlesex Town Hall
Middlesex, Vermont

Attendees

Duncan Nichols	Judy Keyes	Heather Furman	John Austin
Bill Rossmassler	Rick Paradis	Barry Goodman	Dave Shepard

Guests: Mike Kline, Margie Torizzo, Sandy Levine, Paula Crosset, George Springston, Larry Becker,

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:14

Approval of Minutes

March minutes were approved unanimously after brief discussion. Heather will send these to Tim Murphy to be posted on the Middlesex town website.

Treasures Report

- ☞ No reported change since last month: Conservation Commissions budget: \$1974.59. Change in discretionary budget from \$941.88 to \$692.03
- ☞ Heather, Bill and Judy submitted receipts for photocopies and mailing of postcards for the Conservation Fund, and Tree Grant material.

Correspondences

- ☞ Bill announced the AVCC Annual Meeting to be held on April 3, 2004 in South Royalton. Bill, Barry and Dave are planning to attend the meeting.
- ☞ Various Correspondences: Sustainable Communities Conference
 AVCC Seedling
 VT Recycling

Committee Reports

Water Quality/Great Brook

- ☞ Mike and Margie from VT DEC were present to report on the Hazard Mitigation Grant. There was a delay in receiving confirmation from FEMA regarding the grant however the grant was approved for approximately \$9500. Mike reported that he will begin scoping for the project once flood waters recede.
- ☞ **Action Item:** It is necessary for the town to engage adjacent landowners. Mike encouraged the Commission to draft a letter to present to the Selectboard and to hold a public meeting regarding the Great Brook project. This should be discussed at an upcoming Quarterly Meeting between the Selectboard and the Commission.
- ☞ Mike will also be making presentation to the Middlesex Planning Commission. It is noteworthy that the FEMA mapping is referenced in the zoning overly district. There is a DEC initiative to identify hazard zone that could be transferred to local zoning ordinances.

Resource Planning

- ☞ Bill and Mike will continue to work with Sandy on a model ordinance and maps for review by May 1, 2004.

Village Action Committee

- ☞ Heather will begin planning for a village landscaping/work day.

Other Committee Reports

☞ All other Committee discussions were tabled until May in lieu of the Hazard Mitigation discussion.

Other Discussion/Upcoming Meetings

☞ Liza Mase and Lydia Russell arrived later in the meeting to request support of their efforts to conserve the Gutti property on Wood Rd. Rick agreed to accompany them to meet with Gil Livingston of VLT to discuss possible protection. The 47 acre parcel is due to be auctioned on April 26th.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm

Approval of Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting May 6, 2004
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Middlesex Town Hall
Middlesex, Vermont

Attendees*

Duncan Nichols Heather Furman
Bill Rossmassler Rick Paradis Barry Goodman

Call to Order

7:10 pm

Administrative Operations

Approval of Minutes

- ☞ April minutes were not presented. They will be circulated at prior to the June meeting for approval.

Treasures Report

- ☞ Balance: \$648.28. This amount available through June 30th 2004. Conservation Fund remains at \$1974.59

New Commissioners

- ☞ Mary Beth Domanski, Gary Miller, Rod Wentworth, and Annie Greensfelder are all potential candidates for Commissioners. We will ask John to check with Rod, and. Duncan will check with Marybeth and Gary to see if any of them have interest..

Annual Meeting

- ☞ Dave's term will expire this year, and the vacant spot is also expiring. Bill suggested that the officer position should change. Bill is definitely resigning his position as Chair and is seriously considering the Treasures position. Suggestions were made that Dave and possibly Barry co-chair. Heather would be interested in turning the Secretary position over to someone else.
- ☞ Bill will review the MCC Bylaw's to see if changes necessary prior to the Annual Meeting. Possible location: Welch park. Potluck and picnic. Thursday June 3rd at Welch Park.
- ☞ Middlesex Conservationist of the Year Award was also discussed. Candidates include John Pulieo and Susan Clark. John Pulieo is stepping down from Community Connections position and it was agreed that it is timely to honor him. Duncan will make sure John attends the Annual Meeting.

Correspondences

Central Vermont Solid Waste District
Fish and Wildlife Newsletter
Forum on Open Burning
Trails and Greenways Newsletter
VLCT: local tools for water quality protection
VLT: Community Land Conservation

Conservation Project Candidates

- ☞ Cynthia Steed & Eleanor Ott: Have approached the Commission and are interested in selling their property. The property is located on the other side of Notch Trail, close to Putnam State Forest, on the Waterbury Town line. Bill contacted Kate Willard, and Mark from VLT to discuss. There are 2 camps on the property. Kate very interested in the Worcester Range through Forest Legacy. Mark is also interested in working with the Range. Discussion postponed until more is known.

Wood Road Property

- ☞ Liza, Lydia, Fern: met with Gil Livingston and was accompanied by Rick. VLT could not support the project at this time. The 5 acre and the house is already subdivided out of the parcel and the remaining 47 acres went for \$113,000 at the Auction. Gutti (former owner) was attended the Auction. Brian Callnan bought the property, and the residents who were living there felt pretty good about what happened. It was reported that Brian's intentions for the property are not to overdevelop the property.

Committee Reports

Planning & Zoning Update

- ☞ Select Board meeting: met with the Planning Commission. Select Board is holding their own information meeting and the Planning commission is having a separate Public Hearing. Bill encouraged all to attend the June 2nd Planning Commission Public Hearing, which will be held at Town Hall. There is also a public information meeting held by the Planning Commission on May 12th.
- ☞ Local Development Review vis-à-vis Conservation Commissions: Barry presented AVCC annual meeting information on Conservation Commissions getting involved in local development review. Several towns were present at the AVCC meeting to give feedback on how Conservation Commission's get involved with development review and give feedback to their DRBs. Barry had some forms and templates that we could adapt for the Commission.

Village Action Committee

- ☞ May 25th Village Green-Up! Duncan, Bill and Heather will participate. We will meet at 4:30 at Evergreen Gardens in Waterbury to pick up mulch. Heather will distribute flyers around town.
- ☞ May 25th is also the Selectboard meeting and it would be a great opportunity for us to have our quarterly meeting with them. Items to discuss include:
 - 1) the Great Brook Letter and follow-up.
 - 2) Follow-up on the Charrette: potential for using Tree Warden Funds to conduct a tree inventory prior to July 1, 2004. There is \$2K remaining in that fund.
 - 3) Conservation Fund process for transfer of money.
 - 4) The Conservation Commission would also like to voice support for the hard work of the Planning Commission.

Community Forestry Committee

- ☞ This year's Grant was denied.

- ☞ Bill would like to know the status (check with Judy) on the last Grant that was completed.

Water Quality/Great Brook

- ☞ Mike has the paper work for the Grant and will be working out the details for an educational meeting with the Selectboard.
- ☞ Susan Warren is taking on the Better Back Roads Grant

Wildlife Monitoring

- ☞ Thanks to Annie Greensfelder coordinated the Amphibian Crossing this year. John Reported to the Commission via email on April 14th, 2004:

Thought you might be interested in an update on amphibian migrations in Middlesex. I was out last night with Annie Greensfelder and others on East Hill Road. We moved 32 spotted salamanders, 9 wood frogs and a few spring peepers across the road. Only 2 mortalities as of 10:30 pm. I checked the Molly Supple site, not much there (1 spotted salamander and 2 wood frogs). The site on Shaddy Rill had a bunch of dead frogs and salamanders. Moved 1 spotted salamander there. Observed a bunch of critters moving across route 12 just south of Wrightsville dam, but there's no way I'd want to be trying to collect amphibians on that road on a rainy night in the pitch black. I suspect we'll see some larger migrations over the next few nights if things stay wet and the temps go up.

SAVE THE SALAMANDERS!!

Waste Management

- ☞ Dave would like us to follow up on this. Duncan reported that the salt pile on Shady Rill is leaching into the wetland and killing the trees. Duncan will follow up with April Moulart at the wetlands office at DEC. Duncan volunteered to follow with CVSWD.

Conservation Fund

- ☞ Bill compiled a list of materials that nearly all Conservation Funds in other town have. This list includes: 1) "bylaws" that govern the use of the funds.(Randolph has the best templates for us to use, but Huntington and Bradford had other templates. Bill will compile into a draft bylaws for us to review. 2) Application/information packet for candidates. 3) fundraising/information brochure. This will grow out of the bylaws and criteria.
- ☞ Forming the Conservation Fund committee: Needed members: Selectboard, (talk to Selectboard on May 25th about participant – also Bill will provide a list of projects that have come to us to show the Selectboard.), Planning Commission, Recreation Committee Sue Price (?), general public person, historic society.
- ☞ The Conservation Fund Committee will meet during the Commission meetings – time to be adjusted to accommodate the meeting.
- ☞ July meeting will be the focus for dissecting the criteria.
- ☞ Conservation Projects that have been brought to the Commission to date: Hallock on Chase Rd., Worcester Conservation Commission on the border of both towns, Colby, South Bear Swamp – high elevation piece – David Hoyt, Wood Rd, Ott & Steed. – all of these have come to the Conservation Commission for potential funding for conservation.

Recreation Trails

- ☞ There was no report from the Recreation Trails Committee this month.

Conservation Education

- ☞ There was no report from the Conservation Education Committee this month.

Other Discussion/Upcoming Meetings

- ☞ Gallagher Lumber sold. Rick encouraged the VAC to keep their eye on the Depot Building and other RR owned properties. Heather noted that Central VT RR was purchased by Canadian National who is now conducting their administrative business. *Correction: There is some ambiguity about who is the current owner & operator of the RR. Heather will follow-up.*
- ☞ Sarah Seidman – owns Pease Farm, on Culver Hill Rd is concerned about taxes on the property. She is not in Current Use. We suggested that she look at CU before we entertain any local ordinances to address taxes. Heather suggested names for Rick at UVA.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm

Approval of Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, August 5, 2004
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

John Austin
 Barry Goodman
 Heather Furman
 Judy Keyes

Duncan Nichols
 Rick Paradis
 Bill Rossmassler
 Dave Shepard

Other Guests

Gary Miller

Approve Minutes

The approval of the previous meeting's (July) minutes was tabled due to a lack of quorum. The Commission had a quorum later in the meeting but did never went back to act on the minutes.

Approve Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Operations Fund =	\$1,000.00
Keeping Track Fund =	\$ 207.60
Conservation Fund =	\$6,766.99

Rick asked the commissioners to help him make sure his ledger accurately reflects all transactions that occurred at the end of the fiscal year by getting him copies of all invoices that were submitted to June. Rick identified the following list of invoices as missing:

Rumney Projects
Agway = \$232.01
Chris = \$???

Village Projects
Heather = \$???
Evergreen / Town = \$???

Bill was asked to submit an invoice at the next meeting for the expenses he recently incurred for the Friends of the Worcester Range meeting.

Bill noted that John was not able to purchase the infrared camera prior to the end of the fiscal year as was planned, so those funds were absorbed back into the general fund. The commission decided it should ask the select board if they would be willing to pay for the camera out of their discretionary fund.

Wildlife Siting Discussion

A brief discussion was had regarding the recent wildlife sitings of fox, moose, turkey and bear throughout town.

Review Correspondences

The commission did not receive any correspondences over the previous month.

Work Plan Discussion

Dave asked the commissioners if there were any specific issues people felt should be addressed in this year's work program. All commissioners agreed the issue of trails needs more attention by the MCC. Due to the recent issues regarding location, access, atv use, etc., it was suggested the time may be right to develop the Middlesex Recreational Trails Plan that has been discussed for some time. The Municipal Planning Grant Program was identified as a possible grant source for getting the necessary resources to develop the plan. This would be a more long term effort, however. In the short term, it was decided the MCC should send a letter to the select board regarding the Class 4 road / atv issue in preparation for getting time on one of their upcoming agendas. Accompanying the letter would be the recent article published in the Seedling regarding atv use. Potential chairs that were identified for the MCC's Recreational Trails Committee were Michael Levine and Todd Comen. Lastly, it was suggested to research what other towns, like Chittenden, have done to address these issues. Virginia Rasch at AVCC was also identified as another resource.

Village Action Committee

Bill shared the select board's letter to the Town of Moretown regarding the proposed quarry project and noted the Mad River Neighborhood Association's web site at

<http://www.gmavt.net/~mrna/index.html>

is a good resource for keeping up to date on what stage the project is at in the review process. Everyone agreed there were many unanswered questions remaining.

Resource Planning Committee

Bill will draft a letter to the select board regarding the MCC's past comments on the zoning update, noting which comments were used and which ones were not, and responding to comments that were heard at the various public meetings. Lastly, the letter will give thanks to the planning commission for their hard work and dedication.

Water Quality Committee

Dave reported the landowner permission letters were suppose to have gone out and the scheduling of site visits will be taking place soon if they haven't already; all in preparation for trying to implement 3 projects this season on the Great Brook.

Waste Management Committee

Dave noted there may need to be follow-up with the Cassella folks to make sure they aren't waiting for us to initiate one of their programs. Once Dave confirms Duncan has done this follow-up with Cassella, the MCC will move this committee to the "back burner".

Friends of the Worcester Range

Rick reported out on the 7/29/04 Conservation Committee meeting and then the subsequent General FWR meeting. The Conservation Committee met to discuss the strategy in putting together a Forest Legacy application for July 2005. Committee members are going to spend the next two months identifying and prioritizing parcel candidates, at which point they will bring their respective parcel candidates back to a 9/28/04 Committee meeting to discuss with the technical experts. The general FWR meeting discussed the need to look into submitting a multi-town Municipal Planning Grant application in order to seek assistance for facilitating its committee work. The logistics of the upcoming Elmore Celebration were also discussed, as well as a presentation / discussion with Jamie Ervin.

Conservation Fund Committee

The Committee met last night and is working on developing three documents; a Guidance Document, an Application, and a Brochure. Judy volunteered to help with developing a logo. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for 9/1/04, 7pm.

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting September 2, 2004
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Middlesex Town Hall
Middlesex, Vermont

Attendees

Duncan Nichols	Heather Furman	Judy Keyes	Dave Shepard
Bill Rossmassler	Barry Goodman	Gary Miller ¹	

Call to Order

7:13 pm

Administrative Operations

Treasures Report

- ☞ The Treasurer was not present and may be out the remainder of the semester. Dave proposes we switch our meeting date for the next four months to accommodate Rick. The 2nd Wednesday of the month was proposed. Dave will check with Rick and get back to the Commissioners.

Approval of Minutes

- ☞ A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Heather to approve the July, 2004 minutes. A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Duncan to approve the August, 2004 minutes. Both motions passed unanimously.

Correspondences

- ☞ Bill shared various correspondences. Heather shared the Community Assistance Grant Program application. Heather will send the grant application to Susan Clark, as the Town Solutions Committee may have a use for these funds.

Committee Reports

Resource Planning

- ☞ Bill will write a letter to the Selectboard stating MCC's support for the Planning Commission's work on the proposed zoning. He will include a copy of our recommendations as well.
- ☞ The next Selectboard meeting 9/28 will focus almost exclusively on ATV's. Dave agreed to write a letter to the Selectboard with a copy of the VACC newsletter that discusses options for dealing with ATV issues. The possibility of writing a Municipal Planning Grant to look at Class 4 roads and trails and their appropriate use was also discussed.

¹ Nomination Pending

Village Action Committee

- ☞ Kudos to Barry Goodman for pulling together the Transportation Enhancements Grant application for village improvements. Decisions will be made in January.

Friends of Worcester

- ☞ Bill said that each town in the range is charged with looking at their town and identifying parcels that have significant natural resource value. The Commission looked at several maps and identified many areas of importance. This information will be shared with the Friends group with the idea that some landowners may be interested in participating in conservation. The goal would be to apply for Forest Legacy money in 2005.

Conservation Fund

- ☞ Bill noted that the second Conservation Fund sub-committee meeting was held on September 1st. There is a 4th draft of the guidance available for review. Everyone should get comments to Bill asap.
- ☞ Bill will send a draft of a sample application (for funds) to the Commissioners for review and comment.

Recreation

- ☞ Barry indicated he had emailed Virginia Rasch about recreation mapping in other towns. Barry is interested in pursuing this project.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Approval of Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Meeting of 10/07/2004

Attendees: Dave Shepard
Bill Rossmassler
Gary Miller
Barry Goodman
Judy Keyes
Duncan Nichols

Treasurers Report: \$957.39 Annual funds
\$1766.99 Conservation Fund
\$207.00 Keeping Track Fund

2005 draft budget proposed. To be looked at by members and approved at November's meeting.
Bill moved to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Judy and passed.

Gary Miller was approved as a new Conservation Commission member by the selectboard and was roundly approved by the existing members.

Discussion was brought up about town class 4 roads and trails. There are grants available to assess all class 4 roads and trails in town. Duncan will contact Dick Alderman to see if he has any interest in researching this issue and what he would charge to do so.

There was discussion, with approval, for Bill to send a letter to the selectboard and Monthly about the positive feelings of the commission as to the latest draft for zoning from the Planning Commission.

Judy brought up a meeting session she went to regarding the damage done by insects to trees in Vermont.

Bill led the discussion on the FWR latest developments. He is to provide Duncan with info to see what can be done on a spreadsheet of landowners.

The Conservation Fund draft was presented and discussed. Gary will look at and help design the brochure meant for the general public.

Gary brought up the "Rumney View". This is an annual magazine compiled and published by the 5/6 grades at Rumney and guided by Gary.

Dave, Barry and Judy had attended the last selectboard meeting and brought us up to date on the discussion that developed on recreational ATV trails.

Dave will contact Mike Kline to see where the Great Brook project is and what is needed next.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11/10/04 to accommodate members schedules.

Duncan Nichols
Acting Secretary

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting November 10, 2004
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Middlesex Town Hall
Middlesex, Vermont

Attendees

Duncan Nichols	Heather Furman	Dave Shepard	Rick Paradis
Bill Rossmassler	Barry Goodman	Gary Miller	

Call to Order

7:14 pm

Administrative Operations

Approval of Minutes

- ☞ A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Heather to approve the July, 2004 minutes. A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Duncan to approve the August, 2004 minutes. Both motions passed unanimously.

Treasures Report

- ☞ Heather asked about the \$5000.00 appropriation from Town Meeting for the Conservation Fund, and where that money was housed. Dave investigated and replied that the Select Board was holding it in a separate account. Rick will find out where the account is and what the account number is in case someone wants to contribute to the Fund. Contributions to the Fund are tax-deductible.
- ☞ Duncan reported that there is a playground committee associated with Rumney School that may send a request for funds to the Commission.
- ☞ The budget for next year was proposed and discussed. A \$1000.00 budget was decided upon.

MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve the budget. Duncan seconded. All approved.

Bill made a motion to request an increase of \$5000.00 for next years Conservation Fund for a total request of \$10,000. Heather seconded. All approved.

Correspondences

- ☞ Bill shared various correspondences.

Committee Reports

Resource Planning

- ☞ Everyone expressed disappointment and dismay at the vote to reject the new zoning for Middlesex. Several commissioners expressed concern over what the Planning Commission next steps would be to re-energize the process. Bill suggested that we recommend hosting neighborhood meetings to get at the concerns of people who rejected the zoning. **A seriously overlooked consideration was that the Town will not be in compliance with State law if we do not have revised zoning by next Spring.**
- ☞ Other suggestions were:
 - To make the actual ordinance a separate colored document from all of the supporting documentation.
 - To draft illustrations of “before” and “after” sites per new zoning.

- To hold neighborhood meetings and directly target the group or groups of people who were opposed to zoning to get at their concerns.
- ☞ Bill will send Sandy an email with the above information.

Village Action Committee

- ☞ Heather gave a brief update on the Route 100B Quarry proposal.

Great Brook

- ☞ Some structures were installed this summer/fall on Great Brook to help with erosion.
- ☞ Next spring structures and some riparian plantings will be installed.

Wildlife Monitoring

- ☞ Everyone agreed that we should still pursue the purchase of a remote sensing camera for tracking wildlife. This could be held by the MCC for use by the Town, School or other municipal purpose. It was suggested that we have a sign-out system for the camera.
- ☞ Heather agreed to contact John Austin about the status of the purchase. The Commissioners were in agreement that the camera should be digital if at all possible. The Commissioners approved up to \$350 to spend on the camera pending the Select Board's approval.

Friends of Worcester

- ☞ The Conservation Committee will be meeting in early January and the Friends quarterly meeting will take place in late January. Bill reported that the last meeting was very sparsely attended.

Conservation Fund

- ☞ Bill noted that the guidance document was approved by the Selectboard. Bill will send around the text for the brochure for comments.
- ☞ It was suggested that someone write an article for the Middlesex Monthly on the State's current use program. Dick Alderman was suggested as the most logical person to do this.

Recreation/Class IV Rds

- ☞ The Selectboard is supportive of getting a Municipal Planning Grant for locating all of the Class IV Roads in Middlesex. Dick Alderman would like to do this, but would like help. Heather suggested that Tom Jackman may be interested in helping write the grant, and said that she would contact him.

Other Business

- ☞ Dave mentioned that he would like to start a project of registering Big Trees of Middlesex. The Commissioners agreed that it would be fun and interesting. Dave said he would find out more about these types of programs.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm

Approval of Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting December 8, 2004
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Middlesex Town Hall
Middlesex, Vermont

Attendees

Duncan Nichols	Heather Furman	Dave Shepard	Rick Paradis
Bill Rossmassler	Barry Goodman	Gary Miller	Judy Keyes

Guest: Gary Wills – member of the Conservation Fund Committee.

Call to Order

7:07 pm

Administrative Operations

Approval of Minutes

- ☞ Heather made a motion to approve the October and November minutes, Rick seconded the motion, minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Selectboard annual appropriation: \$957.39

Checkbook: \$1981.99

\$7.40 interest was added over the past 18 months.

- ☞ Rick called Town offices and found out that June has set up a separate \$5000 account for the Conservation Fund.
- ☞ Rick will get Dave an electronic copy of the budget we approved at last months meeting.
- ☞ Bill met with Elmore CC, and let them know their might be funding available for reimbursement for hosting the Friends meeting. They might submit invoice.
- ☞ Bill will follow up with Neely on Middlesex Monthly invoice.

Correspondence

- ☞ Heather introduced “public policy research” study, regarding use of environmental terminology.
- ☞ Bill reported that AVCC may be getting more funding to increase Virginia to full time director and hire additional staff.

Committee Reports

Recreation/Class IV Roads

Committee consists of Dave, Barry, Bill and Duncan.

MPG – Tom Jackman to assist and begin writing for cataloguing 4th class roads.

Dave will touch base with Sandy about whether they are going after an MPG next year.

Conservation Fund

Brochure: Gary Wills – guest, and member of the Conservation Fund Committee. Commissioners and guess reviewed the brochure. Bill thanked the people who worked on the brochure and there was considerable discussion about the brochure language pertaining to property taxes in town. Also, suggestions were made regarding the heading: WHAT is the “fund” when and why was it established. It was decided that the brochure would be produced at approximately 9x17, with four panels.

Town budget contribution: Dave suggested that we make it a separate warned article again, under petition, rather than requesting that it is line item in the budget. Bill suggested that we request the Selectboard to make that decision and get their input on whether they think that we should move ahead with a petition or line item. Gary W. suggested that we give it some marketing time and possibly get a pilot project going before we go to line item.

Dave raised a concern about developing guidance on sample agreements, P&S agreements, Conservation Easements. Heather agreed to provide some boiler plate agreements to the Commission.

Land Owner Contact: Forest Legacy Project – candidate parcels by January. No decision was made on how/who to contact.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm

Approval of Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date