

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, January 6, 2005
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

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:14

Minutes

- Dave made a motion to approve the December minutes, Gary seconded. Minutes were approved.

Approve Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund =	\$2006.99
Includes Keeping Track =	(\$207.60)
Selectboard Operations Appropriation =	\$957.39
Conservation Fund =	\$5,025.00

Review Correspondences

- The Seedling, Land and Water Conservation Fund workshop, and VLCT newsletter.
- Commission should review the Annual Meeting
- John will follow up with VINS about spring salamander crossing

Committee Reports

Village Action Committee

- Barry reported out on the Transportation Enhancement Grant. Town has approved about \$2200 of cash outlay and \$1800 in donated services. Middlesex Occasional should get word of this. Only about 40% of the applicants received funds. We can start the "in kind" and the RFP once the contract is signed. We need to keep careful track of the hours contributed.
- Bill has been talking with Steve Gladczuk about tying in with Moretown Scenic Byways study. Barry should ask Steve about how much he can help us. Barry will send the narrative to Heather and she will send it out to the VAC to solicit help from village folks. We should form a committee to review RFP and selection criteria for grant.
- Next steps: coordinate with Steve, RFP, committee to review proposals.

Conservation Fund Committee

- Dave, Bill and Barry went to the Selectboard meeting to discuss the budget. The Selectboard agreed to allow the Operational Appropriation for the CC into the budget as a line item. For the Conservation Fund, the Selectboard did not feel that we needed to get a petition for Town Meeting, and they will put it on the ballot as a warned article voice vote.

- Brochure: Bill sent the brochure out for final comments but didn't hear back. Bill will send out the latest version of the brochure with Michael Levine's comments. We will have one week to get edits back to Bill. Brian Pendergast is donating design services.
- Bill made a 4 panel brochure. Bill will call Judy about the logo.
- Gary will send us a URL link to his personal website to review the photos for the brochure.
- Dave will check with National Life to see if they can offer free printing.
- John will email photos to Gary

Friends of the Worcester Range

- Bill will send out Duncan's list of large landowners who may be interested/eligible to conserve their property, and who we might want to contact. He will have edits and comments. Rows that are highlighted in yellow are those that are related to Worcester Range Legacy project.
- Heather will contact Duncan McDougall to coordinate inviting Faith Bieler to the Waterbury Legacy dog and pony.
- Dave suggested that Middlesex invite Worcester to a Legacy dog and pony.

Resource Planning Committee

- Planning Commission is meeting with the group of people who voiced opposition to the zoning. Dave suggested that we might be interested in attending those meetings. Duncan suggested that we would muddy the waters if we got involved right now.
- Planning Commission is making progress with the opposition group. We decided to wait to participate in the zoning discussions.
- A discussion ensued about digitizing the data. The listers have solicited bids for digitizing the parcel data with the Selectboard. The project looks like it might move forward.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

- Dave brought up the remote camera purchase with the Selectboard. The Selectboard approved the purchase. John is going to move ahead with the purchase of the camera. John said that they are running around \$300.00, but he will let us know what the final cost will be.
- Various suggestions were made for keeping track of the camera over the long term. Once the camera is purchased we agreed to develop a protocol for how we will monitor its use.
- John Austin agreed to talk with the Keeping Track volunteers in Middlesex about whether or not they are interested in doing the transects. Otherwise, we might want to look into other uses for the Keeping Track money.

Other Business

Rumney View Magazine: Middlesex Gone Wild

- Gary is working on a wildlife issue and how to bring awareness to the students about Middlesex wildlife.

Playground Meeting

- John Rahill. Black River Design. Duncan has been to the playground meeting and the school board has budgeted funds. The school is going to need help building the new facility. There will two different areas for younger and older kids.

Adjournment 9:05

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, February 3, 2005
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

Guest: Tom Jackman

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:10

Minutes

- Barry made a motion to approve the January minutes, Bill seconded. Minutes were approved with some minor changes.

Approve Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects/ Fund =	\$2006.99
Includes Keeping Track =	(\$ 207.60)
Selectboard Operations Appropriation =	\$957.39
Conservation Fund =	\$5,025.00

- Invoice received for the Middlesex Monthly. \$200.00
- There was a brief discussion about our annual donation to the school. A request has been made for our annual donation (usually \$300) to go toward the playground fund this year. Several Commissioners objected to this on the grounds that a playground is not necessarily conservation related. Judy suggested that an upgrade of nature trails or a conservation related field trip would be preferable. Bill suggested that the school give us a wish-list of things we can support, other than conservation-related books for the library. Duncan said he would ask what other school projects we could support. Judy suggested wildlife plantings. Gary said he talked to Cliff about "swallow cam", a remote camera for classroom observation. Duncan and Judy agreed to talk with the school about what kinds of discrete projects they need that we could like to support.

Municipal Planning Grant

- Guest Tom Jackman, Stowe Town Planner and Middlesex resident has agreed to help us with our Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) for mapping Class IV Town Roads. Tom suggested that he could call up other towns that have mapped Class IV Rds. and get a ballpark of the work that has been done so far and how much it costs. Bill suggested that we need to spend some time figuring out our goal for this project. He suggested that a town-wide recreational trails plan would be a great starting point. With that, we could do the best we can with the information we have and set the stage for a future research on Town Rds. An important piece is deciding how far back we want to go to document Town Rds.

- Chittenden and Bethel were identified as towns that have had similar issues as Middlesex about the status of their roads. Both of those towns decided the best way would be to simply map their roads. Our issues may be different so it was suggested that it may make sense for us to pursue something other than just mapping (like the recreation trails plan).
- The MPG's are due in September. The Planning Commission may want to piggy-back with help with updating their zoning. A member of the subcommittee should coordinate with Sandy to determine if they would like to pursue this jointly.
- Bill envisions a plan that would map trails and old roads and suggest a strategy for how we deal with old roads. Judy was concerned about legal ROW's that we may come across as we research old roads. Bill suggested that we look at East Montpelier, which has a good recreation trails planning process. Dave suggested that it would be help to identify our actual existing Class IV Rds.

A subcommittee consisting of Dave, Duncan, Barry, Bill and Tom formed to flesh out the parameters of the project.

Town Meeting

- There was some discussion about displays for town meeting. Gary and Judy volunteered to coordinate this.

Conservation Fund Committee

- There was discussion about who would be willing to get up and speak at Town Meeting about the Conservation Fund. Dave had a number of questions he thought might get asked, and he listed those questions. Heather and Bill offered to write up an article for the monthly that would be in a Q&A format to address these questions.

Brochure

- There has been a lot of work done on this brochure. Gary has compiled the votes on the photos and will decide which photos will be used. Bill has the final version of the text. We reviewed the text in detail and made edits. The final text was agreed upon.

Tree Grant

- Judy is interested in writing a tree grant again that could enhance the Bandstand idea being discussed. Bill suggested that she go to Selectboard for input and buy-in and also look at any money that might be in the Tree Warden budget for this year.

Other Business

- See you all at Town Meeting!

Adjournment 9:04

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, April 7, 2005
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

Gary Miller

Other Guests

- Jane Dudley (sweetpaths@pshifts.com) Jane came to express her interest in trails. She moved here from Richmond and was on the trails committee there. She looks forward to participating in our work.
- Katie Feldman (see discussion below)

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:10

Minutes

- Heather made a motion to approve the March minutes, Barry seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects/ Fund =	\$2006.99
Includes Keeping Track =	(\$ 207.60)
Selectboard Operations Appropriation =	\$697.39
Conservation Fund =	\$5,025.00

- Reimbursements were submitted: For the AVCC Annual Meeting. Barry and Bill attended.
- Bill Rossmassler announced his newly appointed position as the Executive Director of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC). There was hearty congratulations.

Correspondences

- VLT newsletter, Tree grant information, VINS community mapping, VLCT/ RPC programs, Tree Warden meeting, Living Local mailing from Environmental Law Center at VLS. AVR (recyclers), National Parks Service film at Billings Museum. AVCC writing contest, deadline January 2006.

Annual Meeting

- MCC Annual Meeting was discussed briefly. Bill suggested we come to the May meeting prepared with ideas.

Conservation Fund Committee

- Brochure – Bill is going to get Gary a Publisher file or a pdf. Dave will look into printers.

Village TE Grant

- Heather, Bill, Barry, Steve Gladzcuk, Amy Bell, and June Lakin met on the TE Grant. The Cooperative Agreement has not been executed yet. The Selectboard will need to sign off on the CA once it is sent to us. Steve has agreed to be the project manager.

Guest: Katie Feldman Save the Salamanders.org

- Katie and her family came to talk to us about the upcoming salamander crossing. Generally salamanders cross in one night and start at about 9:00 p.m. She supplied a packet of information that included identification sheets, a history, and list of things to do. The Commission enthusiastically supported Katie's efforts and looks forward to participating in helping with this year's crossing.

Trail Committee

- Tom Jackman has volunteered to be the point person to write a \$15,000 Municipal Planning Grant to develop a town-wide recreational trails plan. Dave, Barry and Bill met to strategize the scope of work for this plan. The idea is to map the trails and talk about what the issues and uses are, provide guidance and oversight, maintenance, etc. The second phase would be a process for looking at other recreational trail resources that we don't know about, e.g. "Ancient Roads" Pent roads, etc. and identify a plan or process to deal with each of those.

Friends of the Worcester Range

- There is a Friends meeting on 4/14. Middlesex is still tracking down interested landowners – there were at least 4 landowners who were identified. Stowe has at least 2 interested land owners and Waterbury has several. We have not heard from other towns yet.

Keeping Track

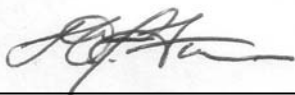
- John Austin contacted Kimberly Hagan and Kim Martin regarding the Keeping Track money and their efforts. They have given us permission to use the remaining funds for the purchase of a remote sensing camera. John took the liberty to set up an account with *Cabellas* and can send in a purchase order for the camera. The one he identified costs about \$250.00. This camera will be loaned out to the school or other institution and/or landowners interested in tracking wildlife in Middlesex.

Other Community Activities

- Judy left the tree grant application with playground committee with the hope that they will apply next year.
- Mike Kline will be starting monitoring of Great Brook again this summer.
- Dave wants to know if someone is interested in coordinating Green up Day. Carl Pagel is the former coordinator. Judy volunteered to coordinate groups, dump trucks, etc.
- Neely's deadline for the Middlesex Monthly is next week if we want to submit anything.

Adjournment 9:04

Respectfully Submitted



Heather M. Furman
Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, May 5, 2005
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

Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:18

Note: A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

Rick joined the meeting at 7:45 to make quorum and allow for voting to take place.

Green-Up Day! May 7th, 2005

Those with trucks (Heather and Bill) should come to the Town Shed at 1:30 on Saturday May 7th. A Boy Scout Troop will be there and will have identified locations where large objects need to get picked up. Most of the Commissioner have volunteered times to be at the Town Shed and monitor the rubbish coming in.

Minutes

Heather made a motion to approve the January minutes, Bill seconded. Minutes were approved with suggested changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund	\$2006.99
Conservation Fund	\$5,025.00
Selectboard Operations Appropriation	\$672.39

- Dave would like Treasurer to check on the interest of the CF account.
- Keeping Track: money has been officially incorporated into the Special Project Fund
- Reimbursements: Bill submitted on behalf of John Austin for the remote sensing camera. \$243.94. This amount was approved at a prior meeting. John Austin will set up the camera at the Annual Meeting.

Correspondences

- AVCC Seedling, Winter 2004.

Annual Meeting

- MCC Annual Meeting is held in June of every year. Dave proposed moving it to June 9th because several Commissioners have a conflict. The meeting will be held at Rumney School to observe the nature trail. Everyone agreed that we could move the Annual Meeting to June 9th. The business end of the meeting will start at 6:00 and will last 30 minutes. At 6:30 pm we will open the meeting to the public. There was a discussion about the natural trail project. This meeting will be a potluck for dinner. Everyone should bring a dish!
- We will be selecting officers. If anyone would like to run for office or remain an officer, they should contact Dave. Rick and Duncan are up for renewal as Commissioners. Dave will contact the Selectboard to see if they have any objections to Rick and Duncan renewing their terms. We decided that we this would be a good practice from here on out.
- Annual meeting is a good time to review bylaws.

Action Item: Review bylaws and make recommendations for any changes.

- We will also be discussing next years' work plan.

- The Conservationist of the Year Award was discussed and a recipient was decided upon. This will go in the Middlesex Monthly. Dave and Bill will coordinate.

Committee Reports

Conservation Fund Committee

- Brochure – The brochure is off to the graphic designer. Once we get a proof from Brian, we will send it to the Selectboard for final review. Dave called National Life about printing, we should hear back soon.

Friends of the Worcester Range

- A couple from Middlesex met with Kate Willard on Friday, and Rick went with them. They will be considering the Legacy Program but have concerns regarding public access, especially since they have so much road frontage. There was also a landowner from Waterbury at the meeting.
- Tomorrow's meeting is cancelled, but two have been rescheduled for May 20th and perhaps May 18th.

Village TE Grant

- Barry spoke to Amy Bell this week and she is still trying to track down the C.A. We are still unable to move forward until that CA has been executed. Steve could be preparing the RFP if he wants to.
- Heather will coordinate a village Green-Up for the month of June.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

- Amphibian crossings were a success! The Commission recommended that we get a report from Katie and do an article for the paper. There were a lot of new crossing locations discovered and should be noted and monitored next year.
- Barry reported that he had a small black bear hanging around his house.

Recreation Trails Committee

- Bill handed out a Phase I and Phase II scope of work outline for the Recreation Trails Committee. See handout for details (attached). Dave noted that Jane Dudley, Mike Levine and others are interested in this Committee. Once the Commissioners review the outline, a final draft will be sent to all interested parties.
- It was suggested that the Committee meet again and with Tom. The Planning Commission may be interested in doing a joint application to MPG to update the Town Plan. This could dovetail nicely with our Recreation Plan.

Other Business

Dave and Bill went to the last Planning Commission meeting. They have a schedule from now until fall to discuss zoning issues with specific topics. Interim zoning expires for Village at the end of this year, and they can't extend it again because they extended once already. They are interested in finalizing the interim zoning for the Village and telecom by putting it to a vote in November.

Water Quality update: Mike Kline will be in touch with us regarding restoration projects this summer.

Adjournment: 8:48pm

Respectfully Submitted

Heather M. Furman
Secretary

**MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, June 9, 2005
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

X John Austin

 Barry Goodman

X Heather Furman

X Judy Keyes

 Duncan Nichols

X Rick Paradis

X Bill Rossmassler

X Dave Shepard

X Gary Miller

Guests: Patty Wiley, Dick Alderman, Mike Kline, Gary Wills.

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 5:35

Dave announced that there would be an abbreviated business meeting followed by a potluck supper and nature walk if the weather cooperated.

Minutes

Bill made a motion to approve the May minutes, Heather seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund	\$1767.97
Conservation Fund	\$5,045.12
Selectboard Operations Appropriation	\$672.39

There appears to be a discrepancy in the special projects funds between Rick's records and the Town Clerks related to the purchase of the remote sensing camera. Rick will check with June about the discrepancy in the funds. (See Work Plan below for more in-depth discussion). Bill motioned to approve the Treasurers report, Heather seconded. Treasures report was accepted.

Officers

The officers were discussed and nominations made.

Co chairs – Gary Miller and Dave Shepard

Bill stepped down as co-chair.

Secretary – Heather Furman

Treasurer – Rick Paradis

Bill made a motion to approve the slate of officers. John seconded. Officers were accepted.

Bylaws

Dave asked if anyone would like to revisit the Bylaws to review any problems or issues. Heather raised a question about unexcused missed meetings. It was discovered in the Bylaws that 3 consecutive, unexcused meetings could be grounds for removal from the Commission.

Work Plan

There was a short general discussion about the 2005-2006 Work Plan. No new items were proposed, however there were concerns about how the remaining funds will be spent this year as there are some discrepancies in the budget.

Bill made a Motion: Dave will check with Rumney on their budget items for this year. Heather will again try to coordinate a Village Planting Day and Rick will check with June on the camera funds. Any left-over funding will be given to the Historical Society to support their publication.

Bill brought up the costs of Green Up Day. He mentioned that the Town pays to have all of the junk that is gathered taken to the landfill. That money comes out of the budget of the road commissioner and this year was approximately \$1000. Bill suggested that it would be a good opportunity for educating out town about the real cost of dumping garbage. He further suggested that this cost should appear as a line item so we can show the community how much of our taxes are going to clean up other peoples junk.

Brochure

Gary brought a draft of the brochure. Everyone thought it was very high quality and was grateful for the work of Brian P. There was a discussion about the costs involved in the design work. Gary will follow up with Brian to get a final cost.

Camera

John brought the camera and did a short demonstration. He suggested that whoever uses the camera will need to set out bait to attract the animals they want to take photos of. John will draft up a protocol for how to loan it out, and some guidelines for how it works.

Conservationist of the Year Award

The 2005 Conservationist of the Year Award was presented to the Middlesex Historical Society for the work they have done preserving the cultural history of Middlesex in a soon-to-be-released publication called "Middlesex Vermont: A Posthole History." The Middlesex Historical Society is made up of Patty Wiley, Dick Alderman and Sara Siedmann.

Adjournment

Business portion of the meeting adjourned: 6:40. A potluck supper was enjoyed by all participants. The nature walk was cancelled due to rain.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman
Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, July 7, 2005
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

Gary Miller

Guest: Tom Jackman

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:10

Minutes

Rick made a motion to approve the June Annual Meeting Minutes minutes, Duncan seconded. Minutes were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund

\$1767.97

Conservation Fund

\$5,045.12 (there should be another \$5000 added to this Fund from the '05 Town Meeting appropriation).

Selectboard Operations Appropriation

\$1000.00 (this is the beginning of the fiscal year).

- Prior to the end of the fiscal year (June 30), invoices from Brian and the brochure were paid. Also invoices from the Rumney School for conservation related library books and material were paid, which left us with a balance of \$114.63. There was a discrepancy between the \$114.63 that Rick had on the books for us and the \$91.00 that was on the Town books. Per our request to the Selectboard, the remaining \$91.00 in our account was paid to the Middlesex Historical Society for the publication of their History of Middlesex. Sarah Seidman sent a card thanking us for the Conservationist of the Year Award and the \$91.00.

Correspondences

- Grant opportunity: River Corridor Grants from the State. VLT, Programs in the Park, Trails and Greenways.

Selectboard Meeting

- Heather and Dave S. met with the Selectboard to provide them with a number of updates (see committee reports).

**Dave will not be in town for the August meeting. Unless there are any changes, Gary will chair the meeting.

Committee Reports

Trails Committee

Municipal Planning Grant. Tom Jackman guest. Tom will be drafting the MPG for the town of Middlesex. We will be submitting a grant to update the town plan and to inventory Class IV town roads. We will be referencing a Phase I and Phase II plan that B. Rossmassler developed. There is not 100% clarity on where all of our Class IV Town Rds. are, or what their current function is. Tom indicated that the Committee should meet again to finalize the grant application once an initial draft has been produced. Priority #1 would be to update the Town Plan, #2 priority would be to inventory the Town Rds., and other priorities would follow.

Tom will be the grant administrator. Tom will attend the Planning Commission meeting to check in with Sandy Levine on what they want to accomplish and what the approximate cost will be. Bill suggested that \$5000 should be adequate for a Town Plan

update. Dave or Bill will get Tom email of all the Commissioners or Committee Members. The Committee will meet either the week of Aug 8 or the week of Aug 15.

Jane Dudley and Mike Levine remain interested in being on the Committee.

Conservation Fund Committee

Brochure – There were some questions on the clarity of the brochure. Several of the Commissioners have re-reviewed the brochure and feel that it communicates what needs to be communicated. The Commission agreed that we will not make any more changes to the brochure unless they are critical. There will be one more opportunity for the Committee to review proofs for errors before it goes to print.

Gary will get a final proof from Brian and will color copy it for the Commissioner and Committee members after July 16th but before the next meeting.

Friends of the Worcester Range

The end of this month is the deadline for the Forest Legacy application. There are two landowners who are the lynch pin properties who may not be able to do the project this year. It looks like there is momentum to apply in the next year and several landowners in Stowe, Elmore, Worcester and Middlesex are still interested.

Village TE Grant

Heather gave a brief update of the Status of both the TE Grant and the Route 100B Scenic Byway project that Moretown is doing. She indicated that she had briefed the Selectboard as well and that they would like more information about the 100B project before signing off on it. A draft Corridor Management Plan is being produced by the Moretown Group and should be available for review soon. As for the TE Grant, the RFP has been drafted and is being sent over to Amy Bell for final signature. We hope to release the RFP next week and hire a consultant by August.

Waste Management Committee

- Kevin Barrett of the Central VT Solid Waste District would like someone from the Commission to attend a meeting in September. Duncan and Judy volunteered.
- Dave indicated that we had brought up Green-up day with the Selectboard. The Selectboard said that Jim Paige is currently inventorying various dumping sites. The sites that were located at Green-up day by the road commissioner were reported. Anyone who knows of other should report them to him. The Selectboard had suggested doing a summary write up in the Town Report that spells out what the cost of Green-up costs the town. There was some confusion about how much money we actually get back from the CVSWD for Green-up day and how much it actually costs us. There needs to be some clarification on these points. Jeff Coons is the head of the cub-scouts and wants to coordinate Green-up day next year.

Adjournment 8:37pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman
Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, August 11, 2005
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

Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:13

Minutes

Bill made a motion to approve the July Annual Meeting Minutes minutes, John seconded. Minutes were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund	\$1767.97
Conservation Fund	\$10,045.12
Selectboard Operations Appropriation	\$975.00

Correspondences

- Cabella's catalogues arrived, VLT stewardship report, VYCC project solicitation arrived. There was some discussion (inconclusive) around whether or not we want to hire a VYCC crew.

Committee Reports

Village Action Committee

Barry gave a brief update of the proposals that came in responding to the RFP that went out last month. Two proposals came in, one from Resources Systems Group (RSG) and one from the Vermont Design Institute (VDI). The committee will meet August 17th, at Town Hall to choose a consultant. Heather will invite Selectboard members to attend this review.

Heather gave a brief update on the Route 100B corridor management plan. She indicated that if 100B is designated as a Vermont Byway, it can open the door for Federal funding, which may help support our Village design and construction. Route 2 from the Interstate through the Village and across the bridge is being considered in the corridor management plan. The plan will be submitted to the State Scenery Preservation Council for official designation some time late this year. Moretown is spearheading the effort. Heather will review the corridor plan and summarize for the Selectboard. She will try to coordinate a meeting with Steve Gladczuk and Bill R. to present the concept to the Selectboard. This program does not have impact on local zoning.

Recreation Trails Committee

Trails Committee meeting is schedule for August 16th, 7:00 at Town Hall. Tom Jackman will be spearheading the drafting of the Municipal Planning Grant for the IV class roads and town plan update.

Rick mentioned that Flanagan has reached an impasse with the Selectboard on the Bear Swamp class IV rd issue. They may be taking the town to court. Whatever the outcome is, may set a precedent for future issues around IV class roads.

Conservation Fund Committee

There was some concern expressed about the status of the brochure. We need to review at next meeting finalize the brochure for printing.

Friends of the Worcester Range

The 6 communities in the range did not submit a Forest Legacy application this year. There was a lot of good progress made though, and we will be able to build on momentum for next year.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

John again agreed to draft a use protocol for the camera and will take some sample pictures.

Chip Darmstadt has started a bird column in the Middlesex Monthly that we may want to coordinate with him.

Community Forestry Committee

Judy informed us about an opportunity to conduct an FPR pruning workshop at Rumney School. There was also a discussion around materials and equipment needed for measuring tree heights for the Greatest Trees in Middlesex project.

New/Other Business

None.

Adjournment 8:41pm

Heather motion to adjourn, John Second. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Heather M. Furman
Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, September 1, 2005
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

Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:11

Minutes

John made a motion to approve the August Meeting Minutes minutes, Barry seconded. Minutes were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

As Rick was not present, the Treasurer's Report was not presented. Dave reported that according to Rick, there had been no substantial changes. Rick also would be glad to provide an update by phone on request.

Correspondences

- John presented copies of *Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage: A Guide to Community-Based Planning for the Conservation of Vermont's Fish, Wildlife, and Biological Diversity*. Created by Vermont Fish and Wildlife, this attractive and information-packed manual will be distributed statewide to planning commissions and conservations commissions and to other parties interested in conserving the state's natural resources. In addition, we received a flyer for the VT Forest Products and Forest Festival Weekend.
- Duncan presented materials purchased by Lynn Woodard for Rumney School using Conservation Commission funds. The materials included an Aquascope and field guides.

Committee Reports

Village Action Committee

Barry gave a brief update. After looking over proposals, the one from Resources Systems Group (RSG) was the clear choice, primarily because their proposal stressed engineering capabilities. It was felt this approach would move the project forward with greater speed, and provide a shorter time to putting something on the ground. The committee hopes to have its first meeting with RSG in mid-September.

Recreation Trails Committee

Tom Jackman shared our ideas for a grant with Peg Elmer. Her opinion was that we have two projects—a town plan update with a recreational trails plan and a plan for mapping class 4 roads. Putting these two projects together in a grant application might result in a weaker application.

One approach to this problem might be to concentrate on a town plan update with a beefed up recreational trails plan. This would probably make for a solid grant application, but the Selectboard's interest seems to lie in the mapping of class 4 roads. Tom has suggested that we might use a Recreational trails Grant to obtain funds for the class 4 roads piece. Bill thinks this might be possible.

In any case, we should contact someone on the Selectboard to get a reading on how they might like to approach the problem from here. This will prevent Tom from going forward with unnecessary work. Dave volunteered to contact Peter Hood to get his opinion on the matter.

Conservation Fund Committee

Gary brought proofs for the Fund brochure from Brian Prendergast. Photocopies were made so all members of the commission could look at them for any errors in text. Gary agrees to contact Brian to see when he needs changes in order to prepare a final proof for the Selectboard meeting on September 13. This will include the addition of bulk mailing mark, if we qualify for one.

Discussion of printing and mailing process includes number to be printed and methods for mailing. Gary will ask Brian for quotes for 2,000 copies in addition to quotes for 1,000. It is decided that a mailing to all taxpayers would be a good first step.

Friends of the Worcester Range

Morristown has declined to host the annual gathering. Bill suggested that a good approach might be to piggyback onto Stowe's October 15 meeting of the Northern Forest Alliance Town Forest project.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

John presented a draft of the protocol for camera use. John will work to finalize the protocol. We need to find out if the user is responsible for replacement of lost or damaged camera, or if the camera can be covered under Town insurance.

John will inscribe the camera with identifying information. Duncan agrees to be the point of contact for people wanting to borrow the camera.

Community Forestry Committee

Judy and Dave provide more info about FPR pruning workshop at Rumney School. It will be held on October 22, from about 9 to noon. We should probably prepare an article for the Monthly to promote this. Dave suggests we ask for a donation to fund a project at Rumney School. Suggestions include landscaping and the playground project. Judy also presented the idea of having master gardeners volunteer hours for maintenance of Rumney landscaping.

Judy also brought up the idea of distributing information about invasive plants and organizing work details re: battling invasives. Gary suggested that the Commission might consider producing a series of printer-paper brochures about various topics: invasives, pesticide use, lawn fertilizers, etc. John says that the state produces these already and that we might use their brochures as a source of info.

There was also a discussion of the Greatest Trees in Middlesex project.

New/Other Business

None.

Adjournment 9:15 pm

Barry motions to adjourn, Gary seconds. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Miller

Co-Chair

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, October 6, 2005
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

Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:16

Minutes

Heather made a motion to approve the September Meeting Minutes minutes, Duncan seconded. Minutes were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund	\$1767.97
Conservation Fund	\$10,045.12
Selectboard Operations Appropriation	\$975.00

Budget request is due by November 17th, 2005. Rick will do the budget request and Dave will do a cover letter. This should be reviewed at the November meeting.

Correspondences

- Cabella's catalogues arrived in the mail.
- Dave also received a notice that the Watershed grants are due at the end of October.
- VLCT zoning workshop, Nature Conservancy Oak Log, VYCC open house, non-game newsletter, VT Tree Stewards Award.

Committee Reports

Conservation Fund Committee

Brochure: We are ready to go with the printer. Motion from Bill R: Hire Buy Monthly to do the printing, and the mailing for the brochure. We should get 2 receipts, one for their services and separate for the bulk mailing. Bulk mailing will come out of operations appropriation budget, and the remainder of the printing costs will come from the Special Projects Fund. Duncan seconded. Vote 7 in favor.

Gary will coordinate with Brian to have this completed.

Friends of the Worcester Range

The next FWR meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2005. It's a Saturday from 4-6. This is considered the Annual Celebration and is being held in conjunction with the Northern Forest Alliance's town forest celebration in Stowe. VT.

Village Action Committee

VAC met with RSG and Vtrans. RSG will be working with Little River Surveyors to conduct the initial survey work. All contracts have been signed and approved and the project is moving forward.

Route 100B Byways Program – the Selectboard has expressed interest in supporting this project.

Recreation Trails Committee

Heather handed around a work plan that Tom Jackman had presented to the Selectboard for the Municiple Planning Grant. Award annougements will be made sometime in November.

Resource Planning Committee

Village Interim Zoning hearing was last night. They zoning will be voted on in November. Town wide zoning is supposed to be ready in March, MCC will continue to monitor that process.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

John will continue to draft a use protocol and will take pictures.

A bear was hit in the median of the highway behind the Village. The state is monitoring bear crossing locations between Bolton and Montpelier.

Community Forestry Committee

FPR pruning workshop will be held at the Rumney School on October 22, 2005. Donations will be made to MCC and possibly Rumney School. Any donations made to this workshop will go to the Special Projects Fund. Heather volunteered to make muffins. Dave will host and bring coffee.

There was some discussion around purchasing or borrowing a Climometer for measuring tree heights for the Greatest Trees in Middlesex.

Water Quality Committee

Mike Kline is still doing research along Great Brook.

Waste Management Committee

We heard back from CVSWD and they no longer have funding to support towns to clean up local dump sites.

Adjournment 8:41pm

Duncan made a motion to adjourn, Gary seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, November 3, 2005
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

 John Austin

X Barry Goodman

X Heather Furman

X Judy Keyes

X Duncan Nichols

X Rick Paradis

X Bill Rossmassler

X Dave Shepard

X Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:08

Minutes

Barry made a motion to approve the October minutes, Gary seconded. Minutes approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund	\$1767.97
Conservation Fund	\$10,045.12
Selectboard Operations Appropriation	\$975.00

- We received a \$10 donation from the pruning workshop.
- The town budget request is due by November 17th, 2005. Rick presented the budget request in memo format for fiscal 2007. The total budget request will be \$1000, same as in previous years. This is to cover our annual operating expenses. Duncan moved to approve the budget, Barry seconded. Budget was approved.
- Dave wrote a cover letter to accompany the budget. Cover letter will deal with two other funding items. 1) Town Conservation Funding – there is not a need for us to do a petition, however there was some discussion about whether or not to do a separate warned item OR request that it be included as a line item in the regular town budget. Dave added the Town Solutions Committee might like to see a separate article in order to stimulate discussion. He suggested that it might not be well-received if it is buried in the budget. It was decided to leave it up to the Selectboard to make the final decision. 2) Dave indicated that the cover letter will touch on the Tree Warden appropriation. Judy and Gary suggested that we add some examples of the work that needs to be done with the Tree Warden budget. Bill will send around the Tree Resources Plan, since it contains much of the information and projects that were identified as part of the Tree Grant application. It was decided to contact Mike Patterson to let him know that we would like to move ahead with the request.
- Dave will make a change to the letter and send it around for review.

Correspondences

- ✓ RSG invoice – needs to be signed off by a Commissioner and left for June.
- ✓ VT Community Forestry assessment from FRP
- ✓ Bill had a correspondence from VLT.

Committee Reports

Conservation Fund Committee

- Brochure: Gary spoke with Buy Monthly about the mailing labels and plastic stickers (tabs). Total cost for just these two services will be: \$140 above their original quote of \$821.00 which was for printing. The Grand Total for the printing, folding, labeling and tabbing will be \$ 961.00. The post office will bill us separately for the bulk mailing.
- We are ready to go with the printer. It was restated that the bulk-mailing postage will come out of operations appropriation budget, and the remainder of the printing costs (\$821.00), plus labeling and stickers (\$140) will come from the Special Projects Fund. Heather made a motion to approve the expense stating that Gary is authorized to go ahead and get the file from Brian over to Buy Monthly., Duncan seconded. All were in favor. Heather and Gary will make arrangements to check the final proof before it is printed.

Friends of the Worcester Range

- The FWR meeting was a success. There was some discussion that there is a group within Friends who is interested in moving forward more quickly with the Legacy process. Heather relayed that she is inclined to let the process play out to see if other folks are interested in signing on before trying to do a separate deal.

Village Action Committee

- There will be a public meeting on Tuesday November 8th, 2005 for the Village pedestrian mobility and traffic calming project. Everyone expressed how pleased they were with RSG to date.

Zoning and Planning Committee

- Next meeting is the final planning commission meeting before the final vote on final Village zoning. The vote will be held on November 29, 2005. Polls will be open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
- There will be a series of articles in the Middlesex Monthly to inform town residents about the new town-wide zoning. It will be a "WE LISTENED" campaign. There will also be a poster meeting focused on neighborhood concerns in early January.

Community Forestry Committee

- FPR pruning workshop was held at the Rumney School on October 22, 2005. Dave reported that the workshop went well, but was sparsely attended. He suggested that we do a workday at Rumney school to help with pruning on Saturday December 3rd.

Town Forest Initiative

Northern Forest Alliance – has launched an initiative to help towns create town forests or help maintain town forests. Middlesex does not have a town forest and could serve as a pilot program. Right now it is in a proposal stage and NFA is looking for financial support.

Adjournment 8:41pm

Heather made a motion to adjourn, Duncan seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather M. Furman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, December 1, 2005
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

X John Austin

X Barry Goodman

X Heather Furman

 Judy Keyes

X Duncan Nichols

X Rick Paradis

X Bill Rossmassler

X Dave Shepard

 Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:09

Minutes

Heather made a motion to approve the November minutes Barry seconded. Minutes approve without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund	\$1777.97
Conservation Fund	\$10,045.12
Selectboard Operations Appropriation	\$975.00

Correspondences

- ✓ No correspondences were received.

Committee Reports

Conservation Fund Committee

- Brochure: Heather and Gary signed off on the proof for the brochure. There was a discussion about whether or not to hold-off on the mailing until just before Town Meeting. It was decided that we would send as a bulk mailing on or around February 1st. Heather agreed to bring in the bulk mailing materials. Bill suggested that we send a cover letter, but we agreed that we do an article in the Middlesex Monthly during February, after the brochure had been mailed. We will also post that article on the website. There was also discussion about the logistics of getting labels and sticky tabs for those that we will send via the bulk mailing. It was agreed that only those that we will send via bulk mail should get tabs, approximately 750 or so. The rest should not get tabs. There was also a discussion about developing a "remittance envelope" for those who may want to contribute to the Conservation Fund. Bill suggested that we work on a Thank You template with citation of IRS statute for donations as well.

Village Action Committee

- Barry reported that the Public Meeting for the Village transportation study took place November 8th. The minutes and notes from the meeting have been posted on the website. It was reported that there was a pretty good turn out – perhaps because it was held in conjunction with the Middlesex Selectboard meeting. RSG, the consultant, handed out a summary of existing conditions, and then there was open discussion on lighting, safety, sidewalks, the Morse property, and intersection issues. There was considerable discussion about the intersection and the store. RSG conducted a separate interview with the store owners about improvements that they would like to see. Next steps include alternative presentation with display boards to be presented around Town Meeting time. The display boards will be available at Town Meeting. At the May public meeting there will be some final decisions from the alternatives and cost estimate.

- Heather will attend the Moretown Scenic Byway public meeting on December 12th. If approved, Moretown will probably apply for scenic byway money. There is a possibility that we could partner with them on this application.

Recreation Trails

- A huge THANK YOU to Tom Jackman for writing Middlesex's Municipal Planning Grant – we were awarded the full amount! The Commissioners who serve on the recreation trails committee include: Bill, Duncan, Barry, and Dave. The grant has two components, 1) town plan update, which will be overseen by the Planning Commission. This includes work on digital parcel data that will be overseen by the Town Listers, 2) Recreation chapter, that will be overseen by the Conservation Commission and Rec. Trails committee. This chapter will hopefully lay the foundation for a town-wide Recreations Trails Plan.

Zoning and Planning Committee

- The Village Zoning was defeated by only 1 vote. 48-47. There was a lot of discussion about the sentiments in town about the zoning effort, the misunderstanding that are out there, and how to get people out to vote for the new proposed zoning in March.
- There was a discussion about the memo that Dave wrote which summarizes the position of the Conservation Commission. Dave would like comments back asap.
- The next Planning Commission meeting on December 14th would will be to discuss the zoning districts, maps, etc. CC'ers are encouraged to attend

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

- Dave suggested that there may be an opportunity to collaborate with VT Coverts. John recommended them as a good way to work with private property owners on how to manage for wildlife – game and nongame. Farley Brown is the executive director. John is willing to touch base with Farley regarding a workshop or meeting to introduce VT Coverts.
- Wildlife Camera: John presented the protocol for the wildlife camera. He would like comments back by Monday December 5th. John agreed to do an article for the Middlesex Monthly – which could also be posted on the Town webpage.
- Save the Salamanders! Strategic Planning for this event was tabled until early next year.

Town and Community Forestry Committee

- Town Forest – Duncan had a list of parcels that are owned by the town that could be potential for the Town Forest Program (NFA). We agreed that looking at the maps at next meeting and perhaps conducting a site walk would be a good idea.
- December 3rd. 9-12 is the pruning work session at Rumney School. Wear your gloves!

Other Business

Town Road Issues

- New techniques of ditching and seeding of Class IV Town Rd. was briefly discussed.

Adjournment

Duncan made a motion to adjourn, John seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather M. Furman

Secretary