

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday January 5, 2006
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 7:00

Minutes

Dave made a motion to approve the December minutes Gary 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

Rick will call to get the interest.

Invoices were submitted for the brochure printing from Buy Monthly for \$861.00. RSG also submitted invoices for the Enhancement Grant.

Correspondences

- Seedling (AVCC). RFP came from DEC's River Management Program. Dave would like to talk with Mike about the Grant Brook project status and see what work might be accomplished this year. Planning Zoning series on January 19th, at VIT sites, Interval Foundation has trees for reasonable prices, TNC Oak Log, VLCT sent a questionnaire asking what we need help with as a town and showing services they provide.

Recreation Trails

- Special Guest - Tom Jackman. Tom brought in a copy of the RFP for the Town Plan Update and Recreation Trails Mapping project. He said the purpose is to update the town plan and focus on a recreation portion of the town maps. He said a component will also take tax parcel maps and digitize these for town plan maps. Next steps: proposals are due on the 20th of January, 2006. At least two consultants have expressed interest and will be submitting. Tom requested that a committee be formed to review the proposals: Barry is nominated. Heather volunteers. Brian Cotterill and Sandy Levine. Tom will contact Brian Cotterill. Conservation Commission will take the lead on Recreation Trails Plan portion. Tom budgeted very little for the public outreach survey, so the survey could focus solely on the recreation component.

Committee Reports

Conservation Fund Committee

- Brochure: COMPLETE! We labeled all of the brochures. Bill volunteered to send a brochure and a thank you letter to the people who served on the Conservation Fund review committee. Heather and Dave will coordinate with June on getting the bulk mailing out before town meeting.
- Dave will check with SB on whether the Conservation Fund will be warned or if we will be part of the budget.

Village Action Committee

- RSG is moving forward with the conceptual plans for the village and will be presenting them soon.

Zoning and Planning Committee

- Zoning hearings are coming up and a poster session will be held on January 18th at Town Hall at 7:00. Public hearing will be held on January 11th 7:30 in conjunctions with the Planning Commission. Tuesday January 24th is Selectboard public hearing. There will be a series of articles from the Town Solutions committee.

Town and Community Forestry Committee

- Pruning workshop was held last weekend. It was a very cold day, but the group got a lot of work done. Judy is interested in doing another grant application for tree planting near the school. She will coordinate on setting up Green Up Day – May 6th.

Friends of Worcester Range

- Thursday January 26th will be the next meeting. Bill will contact Diana about presenting the Putman State Forest re-write kick-off.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

VT Coverts will attend our April meeting. We could contact landowners who might be interested in monitoring and invite them to the April meeting.

Other Business

Town Website MCC Homepage

- Heather introduced a menu that she drafted up for the website. She will send it over to the Town Solutions Committee and Greg Whitchurch.

Upcoming Topics

Katie Feldman and the salamander migration

Jeff Koonz re: the Boy Scouts and Green Up Day.

Strategizing for March Town Meeting – poster of brochure, salamanders, great brook, village planning.

Rick mentioned opportunities to collaborate with the North Branch Nature Center.

Adjournment

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Bill seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather M. Furman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday, February 2, 2006
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 7:10

Minutes

Minutes from the Commission's meeting in January were not available so their review and approval was deferred until the next monthly meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund	\$941.97 (change due to printing brochure)
Conservation Fund	\$10,070.10
Selectboard Operations Appropriation	\$975.00

Correspondences

- ✓ No correspondences were received.
- ✓ Commission members were reminded of the AVCC writing contest. Dave offered to remind Gary who may be interested in participating.

Guests

Middlesex residents Jane Dudley and Scott Gurley joined the meeting.

Committee Reports

Conservation Fund Committee

- The conservation fund will be a warned item for town meeting. Someone from the Commission will need to be prepared to speak on behalf of the fund.
- Heather offered to mail all the fund brochures. This is now complete. A **HUGE THANKS** to Heather for her efforts on this!!

Village Action Committee

- Barry discussed the recent plans for traffic calming and pedestrian access to the town.
- The plan is to present the new information on the village traffic plan to the Select Board after town meeting.
- The plan is designed to be implemented in phases.
- Barry indicated that the focus needs to be on actually constructing some of the recommended measures at this point rather than working on more project planning.

Recreation Trails

- A status report was provided by Barry and Dave on this project. No major changes to report. *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 (included update from December minutes by Heather Furman).*

Zoning and Planning Committee

- Dave indicated that the town won't be voting on new zoning until November instead of at town meeting. Apparently, there were a great many questions and concerns expressed at the public meeting. Based on that meeting, it was decided that more time would be given to try and resolve outstanding issues.
- One big concern focused on the acreage thresholds for lot sizes in the conservation and rural residential districts.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

- Katie Feldman and her father joined the meeting to discuss coordination of the Middlesex spring salamander migration rescue efforts. Katie's salamander website can be accessed at: www.savethesalamanders.org
- Katie has secured a grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to develop a CD of information to raise awareness on the ecology and values of salamanders in Vermont.
- Katie requested assistance from the Commission on scouting for new salamander crossing sites and coordinating people during the spring road crossing events. The current list of crossing sites includes:
 - Bolduc/East Hill Road
 - Molly Supple Road (2 sites?)
 - Shady Rill (traffic is too dangerous to post people at this site)
 - Brook Road, near cow pond
- The Commission agreed to provide Katie with the current list of interested persons that may participate in the road crossing assistance project. However, we need to identify someone who is willing to serve as the central contact person for coordinating people on the night of migration events.
- Katie requested assistance in contacting the town road department for use of safety cones and to determine whether it is permissible to place signs warning drivers to slow down at the crossing sites. The Commission agreed to contact Gary Lamel to discuss this.
- The Commission offered to purchase reflective safety vests for people that participate in this work. Katie will let us know how many vests to purchase.
- The Commission agreed that another article should appear in the February or March issue of the Middlesex Monthly. An article as published in the February issue of the Monthly.
- The Commission will investigate the extent to which the north branch nature center is coordinating salamander rescue efforts to try and take advantage of any work they are doing.
- Katie's father announced that Katie was recently recognized with a presidential scholar award! Congratulations Katie!!

Ott-Snead Property

- The current owners of the Ott-Snead property are interested in selling the land. This is a large 443 acre parcel valued at \$275,000 located near Middlesex notch. This is an important piece of land for conservation for many reasons, particularly because it would connect Putnam State Forest to the Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area.
- The Commission reviewed the parcel maps for the area and all agreed that we should investigate moving forward with some measure of conservation by speaking with the Select Board.
- This parcel may be eligible as a forest legacy project.
- Conservation options that were discussed included having the land become a town forest, conveying the land to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, or the Vermont Land Trust.
- The Commission agreed to present this matter to the Select Board at its meeting on February 28th and request their authorization to look into this matter further.

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

- Annual report is due soon.
- John will contact Farley Brown from Vermont Coverts to discuss the best strategy for making a presentation to the Commission, and perhaps some Middlesex landowners at our meeting in April.

Adjournment

Duncan made a motion to adjourn, John seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted

John M. Austin

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday March 2, 2006
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

 Bill Rossmassler

X Dave Shepard

 Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:15

Minutes

Dave made a motion to approve the January and February minutes Gary seconded. Minutes approve without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the accounts had the following balances:

Special Projects Fund	\$941.97
Conservation Fund	\$10,071.12
Selectboard Operations Appropriation	\$723.85

Heather submitted a reimbursement request for the Brochure mailing. The total was \$241.15.

****Rick will call to get the interest.**

Correspondences

- Two checks came in from the Conservation Fund mailing. Thank you! We will deposit these into the Conservation Fund.

Town Website MCC Homepage

- Heather said she will remind Greg about the website outline and brochure. She will copy Bill on the email and resend brochure, guidance, and application in .pdf format.

Annual Meeting

- Location could be at Wrightsville Reservoir or Shady Rill.
- Katie Feldman was nominated as the Conservationist of the Year for 2006, but no final decision was made.
- Trails should be the topic/theme because of the new chapter in the Town Plan.

Town Meeting

- Set up for Town Meeting will be on Monday evening or Tuesday during the day. We will have Conservation Fund information, Village Planning information and Katie's Salamander information. Heather has the key.
- Talking points on the Conservation Fund – guidance, brochure, success the first couple of years. Forest Legacy brochure.

Committee Reports

Recreation Trails Committee

- Consultant Michael Crane Associates was selected and the digital mapping should be completed in the next week or so.
- Michael Crane will attend our April meeting to discuss the rec. trails component.

Village Action Committee

- March 28th at 6:30 will be the next public meeting on the Village designs. The design will be up at town meeting with advertising of the March 28th public information meeting.
- It was unclear whether or not Middlesex has party status on the Quarry.
- John will call Ed Stanick about whether or not we have party status.
- John will recuse himself because of his professional relationship with the project.
- *Bill made a motion to support the position on Village Action Committee as they may submit their opinion in letter format to the Selectboard regarding the Moretown Quarry Act 250 procedure. Heather seconded motion. 7 in support, 0 against, 1 abstained (John).*
- As long as our conceptual designs get plugged into the Mad River Byway funding application are heading in the right direction. Barry or Bill need to contact and clarify with the Selectboard the need for Enhancement Grant designs in the Village and Morse property and the 100B kiosk.

Town and Community Forestry Committee

- Judy may do a tree grant.
- There is a request to help with landscaping the gazebo and playground was shooting for Green-up day.

Friends of Worcester Range

- Ott-Steed property. Heather, Dave Bill and Duncan met with the Selectboard. There wasn't opposition to the idea that the property should be conserved. Peter said that it was an ideal parcel for conservation. The Selectboard was interested in hearing more from us on either State or town ownership. Bill spoke with Elinor Ott. Bill handed out a to do list for moving forward on this project.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

- Our guest from Coverts will come in May rather than April.

Other Business

- Dave spoke with Jeff Koonz about coordinating with the Boy Scouts for Green Up Day. Wanted to know if the CC would be the contact, but Jeff is going to be contact on Green-Up. Jeff will come to the April meeting. CC will staff the town garage. Green Up Day is the 1st Saturday in May, this year May 6th.

Adjournment

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Bill seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather M. Furman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday April 6, 2006
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

X Judy Keyes

X Duncan Nichols

 Rick Paradis

X Bill Rossmassler

X Dave Shepard

 Gary Miller

Guests: Michael Crane, The Koontz Family, Jane Dudley, Scott Gurley, Denise Coty, Ski Coty.

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:00

Minutes

- Approval of the March Minutes was tabled.

Treasurer's Report

- Rick was not present. Treasures report was tabled.

Commissioner Terms

- John Austin announced that he will be stepping down from the Conservation Commission. He has been an active and respected Commissioner since 2001, but felt it was time to give someone else the opportunity to participate. He will be missed. Everyone thanked him for his years of service!
- Heather Furman announced that she will be stepping down from the Conservation Commission due to her upcoming move to Jericho Center, Vermont. She has been on the Commission since 2002. She said that she has enjoyed her experience on the Commission immensely and wishes everyone the best in their continued conservation activities.

Correspondences

- Friends of Winooski River, and Kristin Rose (Winooski River Watershed Planner).

Committee Reports

Green-Up Day – May 6th

- Jeff Kootz and his son Ken presenting the plan for Green Up day. Their house at the top of East Hill as well as the town garage and fire station will be the location for the bags, posters will be put up in Town Hall, Rumney, and the Middlesex Store.
- Members of the CC will provide coverage at Town Garage from 9 – 3:30.

Recreation Trails Committee

- Consultant Michael Crane was present for the discussion on the recreation trails. Michael gave a brief overview of the project. He said that the GIS mapping component was nearly done. The remaining pieces are the Town Plan update and Recreation Component. They conducted a survey to a random sample of residents. Project budget is slim, so expectations need clarification.
- Jane pointed out that there may have been a problem with the survey mailing. It is suspected that several of the surveys were sent with only 1 page of the survey.
- Dave said that the recreation component of the plan is really on the trails in Middlesex, and not necessarily focused on other types of recreation such as ball fields, etc. John pointed out that it's not necessarily a "clean fit"

with hunting and fishing and other types of dispersed recreation. He said it's important for us to be mindful of potential conflicts of this type of dispersed recreation with trail use, i.e. hunting and mountain biking.

- Barry suggested that we need to get a handle on what resources we currently have and how they are used.
- Michael asked "what was the impetus for this project." Bill responded that this came as a reaction to the pending ancient roads legislation and from issues in Middlesex around class 4 road location and use.
- In response to Michael's questions, "what one thing would this project determine," Barry responded that a current inventory of existing trails would be most important.
- Dave said it would be successful if we had a sense of what residents want and who the trails should serve. Also having the inventory of what we have. Michael suggested that we organize folks to represent different types of users and perhaps host a forum. Denise suggested that we advertise a public form in the Middlesex Monthly and Commissioners should make phone calls to folks who might be interested in attending.
- There was a discussion on Focus Groups: Michael suggested having a couple of focus groups on specific uses or demographics to discuss their uses. We will solicit folks through the monthly, they should call Dave Shepard. Dave should take down their Names, Phone Numbers, and Areas of Interest.
- Michael needs to get current trail information. Commissioners brainstormed current public trails and made suggestions on how Michael might get his hands on this information.

Village Action Committee

- Enhancement Grant – A public meeting was held on March 28th. RSG presented their recommendations. Vtrans should have their review completed by the end of the month so that we can meet with the Selectboard on either May 9th or the 23rd. Also to discuss the Moretown Quarry at that time.

Friends of Worcester Range

- Elmore and Waterbury are not participating in the Forest Legacy Program this year. Middlesex and Stowe might be able to get an application in this year depending on technical resources.
- Bill noted that establishing a Town Forest would be an option with Legacy Funding.
- April 13th is what Bill proposed for FWR meeting.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

- Farley Brown will be attending the May meeting.

Adjournment

Heather made a motion to adjourn, John seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather M. Furman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, April 29, 2006
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Comissioners Present: Judy Keyes, Gary Miller, Duncan Nichols, Rick Paradis, Bill Rossmassler, Dave Shepard

Guest: Collin Crawford-Stemple

This special meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) was convened at 9:00 a.m. to view a property located off the Notch Road owned by Eleanor Ott and Cynthia Steed. This property is being considered for purchase for conservation through the Forest Legacy Program. The MCC met with Collin and toured a portion of the property to learn more about the property to assist in completing the Forest Legacy application process.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 with some of those attending eating lunch at the beaver pond in Middlesex Notch.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Shepard

Middlesex Conservation Commission

Meeting of May 4, 2006

Attendees:

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

Guests; Jane Dudley, Gary Wills, Farley Brown, Scott Gurley

The minutes of the March and April were approved.

The minutes of the site walk on the Ott/Stead property were approved.

Rick presented Heather with a very appropriate gift, eggs laid in Middlesex. The treasurer's report, by Rick, was as follows:

Operating Budget - \$643.90

Conservation Fund - \$10,248.56

Special Projects Fund - \$1,218.93

Rick will check to see if John was reimbursed for the remote camera.

The annual meeting and award ceremony will be done during the June meeting. Katie Feldman has been selected as the nominee for the award. The meeting will be held either at Wrightsville Reservoir or Shady Hill Park.

Green-up Day (Saturday – June 6th) volunteers will be at the town shed for times to be decided later.

Farley Brown, Executive Director of Vermont Coverts, spoke extensively on the purpose and direction of Vermont Coverts. She mentioned several workshops that were presented on management plans for woodlands and wildlife for private properties. It was suggested that there be a fragmentation workshop be set up for the fall in Middlesex.

The Mad River By-way meeting is set for Monday, May 8th at the Middlesex Town Hall.

Dave will be arranging to attend the selectboard meeting of May 23rd.

The V-Trans Enhancement Grant was discussed at length as this grant is almost at completion. The town survey is completed with about one-half the town covered. The remainder of the town will be covered by this survey with the MCC picking up the postage fees. Jane volunteered to follow up on any foot travel groups and Martha Faber has agreed to follow through on horse travel. Dave thought the snowmobile folks should be contacted.

The Ott/Stead property/land conservation was discussed and the work/time list was presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Presented by Duncan Nichols

Meeting Minutes
Middlesex Conservation Commission
6/8/06

The meeting was held at Shady Rill Park to accommodate the annual MCC potluck dinner.

Attendance:
Duncan Nichols
Bill Rossmassler
Rick Paradis
Gary Miller
Dave Shepard

The meeting was called to order by Dave Shepard at 6:30 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from the previous meeting have not been compiled, so will be tabled until next time.

Treasurer Rick Paradis provided a report on finances. The following fund balances were presented:

Conservation Fund	\$10,363.56
Special Projects Fund	\$1218,93
Operating Budget	\$608.90

Duncan Nichols presented a letter from Rumney School librarian Lynn Woodard thanking MCC for agreeing to fund the purchase of a number of field guides for the school library. The total cost is \$322.60, which will be paid from the MCC Operating Budget. Rick Paradis will send a check to Lynn for the total.

It was noted that the MCC must also pay its annual dues to the association of conservation commissions. The amount is \$75.

Bill Rossmassler stated that he purchased a card reader, batteries, and recharger for the remote camera.

ELECTIONS

Elections were held for offices on the MCC. Results were as follows:

Chair	Dave Shepard
Co-Chair	Gary Miller
Treasurer	Rick Paradis
Secretary	Barry Goodman

Dave stated that he would be willing to serve one more term as Chair, but no more.

It was noted that two vacancies on the MCC need to be filled. Thus far, folks we have contacted about the positions have not shown interest. We will continue to seek out people who might be interested in filling the vacancies.

CORRESPONDENCE

A copy of the Long Trail newsletter is presented. It includes an article about Rick Paradis, who received the Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award for his work in preserving alpine habitat.

FOREST LEGACY PROJECT

A summary of the state of the Forest Legacy Application was presented. One issue includes the need to find an appropriate pathway for taking timber from the land. We will continue to explore this issue. One way to problem solve is to make another visit to the site. Bill will contact Colin Steed to arrange such a visit.

According to Duncan, there are two town properties, one of 21 and one of 10 acres, that can be added to the application, helping to strengthen it. Bill also suggests that presenting a local application to the Selectboard and getting its approval will strengthen the application as well. Time is short, but we will attempt to do this.

Meeting is adjourned at 7PM.

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday July 6, 2006

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Middlesex Town Offices

Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman

Judy Keyes

Duncan Nichols

Rick Paradis

Bill Rossmassler

Dave Shepard

Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:15

Guests Eleanor Ott, Monika Reis

OTT-STEED APPLICATION

Middlesex Conservation Program and Forest Legacy

Committee has reviewed property, reviewed application for inclusion in Middlesex Conservation Program. The committee reviewed and recommended the application be approved.

Bill made the Motion to recommend the application to the Select Board for support and possible town funding, as is, (400 acres for forest legacy), 40 plus acres retained for camps, 20 plus acres to sell. Barry seconded. Vote unanimous...carried

Today's land walk was to review parcel and look for access.

Minutes

Gary made a motion to approve the June minutes. Barry seconded. Minutes approve without changes.

Treasurer's Report

Report tabled as Rick was not present.

Correspondences

- Two checks came in from the Conservation Fund mailing. Thank you! We will deposit these into the Conservation Fund.
- Mail from North Branch Stream Geomorphic Assessment – Friends of the Winooski River
- Discuss Vacancies on MCC

Bill suggested that we update candidate list

Gary suggested that we might put a note in the Middlesex Monthly. Might be best if we put in another article about a MCC subject (focus groups for rec. trails) and also add that we are looking for new MCC members. Gary will write the note.

Barry will ask new neighbor on Center Rd., Jessica to see if she is interested.

Committee Reports

Village Action Committee

- Barry went to VTrans meeting so the MCC can proceed with the 2006 Vtrans Enhancement grant application.
- Dave met with the Select Board to get their support to apply for Grant money with the next round of funding.
- Barry is working on the Grant application for the August 18th, 2006 application deadline.
- RSG sent an additional invoice which Barry will review with Amy Bell.
- Mad River Byway is planning an event in September on the 100B byway and wants Middlesex to be an active partner. Gateway signage may be possible to piggyback on the Byway. (possible designated bikeway striping and share the road cycle signs.)
- MCC should get a copy of the building assessment plan for the Morse property when it is available.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreational Trails Committee

- Zoning working session at Select board July 27 meeting to discuss shortening the document. MCC concerns. Changing zoning size priorities.
- Zoning group wants to have a public meeting in September.
- Dave asked that Michael Crane plan the focus groups meeting in August.
 - Motorized, non-motorized (mechanical), pedestrian
 - Second round of trail surveys did go out and there was a good response.
 - Request from Michael Crane for names of people who should be contacted for inclusion in the focus groups. Bill will review list of people who Michael can contact.

Bill gave us a heads up that Municipal Planning Grant applications are due aug-sept. The MCC needs to have a heads up to write a “next” grant for the Trails and ancient road issues. Tom Jackman has noted that he is interested in putting together a new Grant application for the MCC for the next phase.

Water Quality Committee:

North Branch Stream Geomorphic Assessment – Friends of the Winooski River

July 29th training in Worcester with Worcester CC

Windshield survey to assess the health of the north branch. 1\2 day training and one or two days in the field to do assessment. Assessment to be completed by August 21st.

They need volunteers of those interested.

Other Business

- Monthly articles: Gary to write article and ask people to let us know if they are interested in joining the MCC

Adjournment

Gary made a motion to adjourn, Bill seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Garry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday August 3, 2006
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman
 Judy Keyes

Duncan Nichols
 Rick Paradis
 Bill Rossmassler
 Dave Shepard

Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:13

Quest: Ann Smith, Kristen Rose, Forrest Spencer

Minutes

Barry made a motion to approve the July minutes. Duncan seconded. Minutes approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$1000. as of July 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$10428.62
Awaiting \$5000.00 of voted for funds from town meeting
- Special Projects fund: \$1352.84
- New invoices: 1 invoice: materials cost for legacy application
\$37.17 from Stowe Land trust for copies. Invoice approved, Rick will submit the invoice for payment.

Correspondences

- Duncan sent a letter July 17th, to Mrs. Cherubini concerning her 88-acre parcel between town property and Ott Steed property. To see if she is interested in
 - 1) Right of way to the Ott steed parcel
 - 2) Conservation land through fee purchase
 - 3) Donate as conservation land.

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee:

- North Branch Stream Geomorphic Assessment – Friends of the Winooski River
- **Ann Smith w/ Friends of the Winooski River**, mostly Montpelier based, riparian work, stream assessment. Meeting Conservation commissions in the watershed for partnering.
- Geomorphic Assessment for the North Branch of the Winooski, phase 1
Maps, g.i.s., windshield survey to establish priorities. Phase II, more hands on in the watershed.
- Volunteers: Windshield survey to assess the health of the north branch. Headwaters in Elmore down through Wrightsville to Montpelier. Middlesex has a lot of the tributaries in the watershed. Wish to create mid main stem groupings from Montpelier to Bolton.
- August 26 workshop, Nature Conservancy and Montpelier Conservation Commission offering a seed collection workshop for riparian plantings.
State of Vermont (Kristen Rose) 5-year assessment and create watershed plans for Winooski River Basin.
- Plan to summarize natural resource information, current and past water quality assessments, and efforts to protect and restore water quality.
- Looking to be more locally based. 2 years to write plan, 1 year for implementation.
- Public meetings in fall.

Village Action Committee

- Dave talked to Gary Lamell about sidewalk winter maintenance. Barry is checking if there is a state requirement to clear sidewalks- winter maintenance.
- Bill suggests possible hybrid of “marked share the road” for pedestrians or bikes if sidewalks won’t fly.
- Dave will meet with the Select Board, Aug 8th to get their support to apply for Grant money with the next round of funding.

- Barry is working on the Grant application for the August 18th, 2007 application deadline.
- Mad River Byway is planning an event Oct 1. on the 100B byway and wants Middlesex to be an active partner. Gateway signage may be possible to piggyback on the Byway. (possible designated bikeway striping and share the road cycle signs.)
 - Duncan...handouts at Rumney School. And talk to new principal.
 - Suggest talk to store to get involved (grill)...drinks.
 - Elisa Vandervort and Barry Goodman are serving as Middlesex representatives for the Byway event and are soliciting help from anyone who is interested in the event.
- MCC should get a copy of the building assessment plan for the Morse property when it is available.
- Bill suggests we get a chance to review the current Black River Design. Duncan will see if he can get a copy that the MCC can look at.

OTT-Steed Application

Middlesex Conservation Program and Forest Legacy:

- ***Application for this piece has gone into Forest Legacy. MCC needs support from our congressional delegation. Committee has reviewed property, reviewed application for inclusion in Middlesex Conservation Program. The committee reviewed and recommended the application be approved.
- Bill made the Motion to recommend the application to the Select Board for support and possible town funding, as is, (400 acres for forest legacy), 40 plus acres retained for camps, 20 plus acres to sell.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreational Trails Committee

- 2006-2007 municipal planning grant has \$ available for Ancient road issues.
- Dave to approach select board to see if they will support our application for a grant to push for an Ancient road grant.
- Zoning working session at Select board July 27 meeting. MCC concerns changing zoning size priorities. Dave supported all the work with water quality issues.
- Zoning group wants to have a public meeting in September.
- Dave asked that Michael Crane plan the focus groups meeting in August. Ideal to have 5-10 people. August 7th (motorized group) and 9th (horse focus group meeting.)
- Still need biking group focus group.
 - Motorized, non-motorized (mechanical), pedestrian
 - Second round of town plan surveys did go out and there was a good response.
 - Request from Michael Crane for names of people who should be contacted for inclusion in the focus groups. Bill will review list of people who Michael can contact.

Bill gave us a heads up that Municipal Planning Grant applications are due aug-sept. Tom Jackman has noted that he is interested in putting together a new Grant application for the MCC for the next phase.

Other Business

- Judy suggests we buy and plant a tree by the bandstand. Duncan seconded. All voted in favor.
- Monthly articles: Gary to write article and ask people to let us know if they are interested in filling one of the vacancies on the MCC
- Dave to write an article about annual meeting.

Adjournment

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Bill seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9.20pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday September 7, 2006
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman
 Judy Keyes

Duncan Nichols
 Rick Paradis
 Bill Rossmassler
 Dave Shepard

Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:13

Guest: Jane Dudley

Minutes

Barry made a motion to approve the August minutes. Rick seconded. Minutes approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$867.59. as of August 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$10428.62
Awaiting \$5000.00 of voted for funds from town meeting
- Special Projects fund: \$1352.84
- New invoices: 1 invoice: materials cost for tree for the band stand.
Invoice for \$125.00 Rick will submit the invoice for payment.

Correspondences

- Seedling from AVCC / newsletter
- Sample calendar from Bradford Conservation Commission that is used as a funding source. Jane suggests that she may have someone in town who might volunteer to help us do that in Middlesex.
- Youth conservation core....looking for opportunities to work with Vtrans enhancement grant projects.
- VT rivers conservancy may have a chance to close on property along route 12. Worcester, Elmore line and Friends of the Worcester may be interested.

Vacancies on the MCC

- Dave will make a few direct call contacts

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee:

- North Branch Stream Geomorphic Assessment – Friends of the Winooski River
- Judy and Gary did 3 drive assessments of the streams.
- Maps, g.i.s., windshield survey to establish priorities.

Village Action Committee

- Barry submitted the Vtrans grant 8\17 after getting the select boards vote in support. 4 in favor to 1 opposed.
- Mad River Byway was funded @ \$39,000 for signage and education.
 - Byway event may be put off to next spring.
- Black River Design proposals for the Morse piece were in the Monthly last month. MCC should continue to review.

OTT-Steed Application

Middlesex Conservation Program and Forest Legacy:

- ***Application for this piece has gone into Forest Legacy. MCC needs support from our congressional delegation.
- Bill has suggested that the piece may be included as a town forest to make the application more competitive.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreational Trails Committee

- Documents available on pdf and excel sheet on Crane Assoc. web site about the public comments and analysis from the public survey.
- 9\6 focus group. 9 folks attended for bike\ped.
 - Lively group and the only group who seemed most likely to come forward and be part of the process to push for bike and ped.
 - Jane made the point that we want a greater vision of a bigger trail network across all of town and with other towns. I.e. tie in with Mad River Byway, Waterbury mountain biking etc.
 - Also need the clear indication of where the class 4 roads are, and other community trails. Town wide signs (Middlesex Trail network) i.e. please respect private property, this is a community resource.
 - Discussion that most of the trails that exist are on private property and the issues and problems of access and usage.
 - Public use loop on class 3, class 4 and ancient roads....and make that clear as a larger network. With clear signage
 - Bill noted that we should get the sign up sheets for each of the focus group to have the names for the Recreation Trails committee.
 - Jane has brought forth the “ancient road” up the Dumpling from Macey Road to Woods Road. The Ancient road is clearly marked on the 1874 Beers Map of Middlesex.
 - Bill suggests we work in the next year with the “Flanigan road, Dumpling Road and Middlesex Notch Rd. and start to work on our ancient roads
 - Dave has approval from the select board to apply for funding to help research and protect our ancient roads. Dave will talk to Tom Jackman about applying for the grant.
 - 2006-2007 municipal planning grant has \$ available for Ancient road issues.
 - Bill suggested we put an article in the monthly describing ancient roads and encouraging residents to think about “do they know of or have ancient roads?” Dave and Bill will talk to the select board about applying for grant money, and their further support.

Bill gave us a heads up that Municipal Planning Grant applications are due aug-sept. Tom Jackman has noted that he is interested in putting together a new Grant application for the MCC for the next phase.

Zoning Update:

- Review of draft of zoning 8\30. Dave and Bill commented individually as residents. 75 people attended the meeting. Zoning Board would like to be able to have a vote for Nov.

Other Business

- Morristown may host “Friends of the Worcester Range” Celebration at the middle of Sept thru mid Oct
- VINS is now not a part of the North Branch nature center. The center is an independent Nature Center at the North Branch.
- Monthly Article: suggestion to write it on ancient roads. ?Judy and Jane.

Adjournment

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Rick seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9.16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Eary Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday October 5, 2006
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman
 Judy Keyes

Duncan Nichols
 Rick Paradis
 Bill Rossmassler
 Dave Shepard

Gary Miller

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:05

Guest: Jane Dudley

Minutes

Duncan made a motion to approve the September minutes. Rick seconded. Minutes approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$742.59. as of October, 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$10428.62
Awaiting \$5000.00 of voted for funds from town meeting
- Special Projects fund: \$1352.84
- Rick will prepare a new budget for the new fiscal year for approval at Town Meeting for the year beginning July 1

Correspondences

- Mailing from Housing and community affairs concerning a grant for town official training around land use issues.

Vacancies on the MCC

- Dave will make a few direct call contacts

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee:

Village Action Committee

- Mad River Byway celebration was put off to the spring where there will be time to plan it better.
- Black River Design proposals for the Morse piece were in the Monthly last month. MCC should continue to review.

Conservation Program

OTT-Steed Application

Middlesex Conservation Program and Forest Legacy:

- State met and walked parcel and agreed that this piece is a good prospect. Town agreed that they would support the piece as a Town Forest.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Zoning

- Zoning meetings on Oct 11th and Oct 24th put on by the Zoning Committee and the Town Solutions Committee to discuss the new zoning regulations, explain and answer questions prior to the November vote. Dave is hoping MCC members will be at the 11th meeting. Dave plans on attending the 24th meeting.

- Documents available on pdf and excel sheet on Crane Assoc. web site about the public comments and analysis from the public survey as well as two maps of trails in Middlesex.
- Dave to contact Montpelier trail committee to set up a meeting to see about potential for current or future trails linkage.
- Suggest use November MCC meeting to invite town folks to discuss the trail report as put forward in the new draft town plan. Use Middlesex Monthly to invite folks. Informational session – focus on trails. Discuss the info from the focus groups and from the survey and move to next steps from the Draft Town plan to talk about ideas we can prioritize and make next steps. Dave will write a short piece for the Monthly and send it to Jane for her edit\review.

Municipal Planning Grant \ Ancient Roads

- Tom Jackman will apply for a Municipal Planning Grant, due Nov 10th for a grant to research ancient roads.
Discussion followed to flesh out what the strategy should be with this new grant application.
- Look to prioritize what the process will look like
 - Who will head up the entire process (discussion that the MCC is interested in heading up this process and will ask the Select Board if they are interested in the MCC as being responsible for the grant.)
 - Volunteers
 - Training

Other Business

- Morristown may host “Friends of the Worcester Range” Celebration October 14th Morrisville Water and Light Building.
- North Branch Nature Center wants to get on the ballots around the region to petition for money in support.

Adjournment

Duncan made a motion to adjourn, David seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9.16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Sally Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday November 2, 2006
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

Commissioners Present

<input type="checkbox"/> Barry Goodman	<input type="checkbox"/> Duncan Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Shepard
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Keyes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Paradis	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Miller	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Rossmassler	

Administrative Operations

Call to Order 7:05

Guests: Jane Dudley, Scott Gurley

Minutes

As a quorum of the Commission was not present, the meeting minutes for October 5, 2006, were not reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$742.59
- Conservation Fund: \$10,609.46
Awaiting \$5000.00 of voted for funds from town meeting
- Special Projects fund: \$1233.03

Rick pointed out that the Conservation Fund balance reflects the addition of some funds from the Special Projects fund to replace funds that were originally mistakenly withdrawn from the Conservation Fund.

Dave announced that Scott Gurley has sent a letter of interest in joining the Commission and Dave will forward his letter to the Select Board with a request that they appoint Scott to one of the two current openings.

At approximately 7:30, the meeting moved to a discussion of trail resources in the recreation section of the draft town plan. An invitation had been posted on the Middlesex website and a notice had also been placed in the Middlesex Monthly.

The following individuals joined the Commission for this discussion: Bill May, Tom Frostic (both representing Montpelier Trackmakers snowmobile club), Libby Towne, Todd Comen, Eric Seidel and Kimberly Hagen. Also present was Michael Crane of Crane Associates, the consulting firm contracted by the town for assistance with the town plan update.

After a brief overview of the trails related survey results and the recommendations for further actions in the recreation section of the draft town plan, the meeting was opened up to discussion and comments. There was a significant discussion of the pros and cons of including the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) trail on the trail map to be included in the town plan. The main disadvantage was the difficulty in denoting the unusual status of the VAST trail, which is mainly on private land, compared to the other trails, Class 4 roads and Legal Trails also depicted on the map that are public rights of way. In consideration of the potential that viewers of the map might not

differentiate the VAST trail from the others and assume it was open for similar uses, it was decided it would be best to reference in the text that there is a VAST trail in town but not show it on the map.

As a result of the discussion at this meeting the following potential future actions were recommended to be added to the list already included in the draft town plan:

- Assess the existing trails and rights of way and consider the appropriate types of use for each.
- Educate trail users on proper trail etiquette and respect for the property a trail passes over.
- Initiate a dialog with the Selectboard on types of use for different trails and rights of way.
- Explore the potential for additional trails with willing landowners.
- Explore possible connections to trails in adjoining towns.

The meeting was adjourned at the conclusion of the trails discussion at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Middlesex Conservation Commission Co-Chair