

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday January 4, 2007
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

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Call to order 7:10

Minutes

Duncan motioned to approve December minutes. Dave seconded. Minutes approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$723.60 as of , January 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$15609.46
- Special Projects fund: \$1233.03
- Rick noted that we will have dollars to pay Middlesex Occasional, and make a contribution to Romney School library fund

Correspondences

- Checks were received from town folks for the conservation fund. Rick will put together a letter of thanks, or ask Bill for a form letter to send a note and act as a receipt for those who send in contributions.
- \$1000 contribution was received from the Vermont Community Foundation for the MCC Conservation Fund.
- Received a correspondence from Mr. and Mrs. Cherubini granting logging right of way across their property to access the Ott-Steed property.

Vacancies on the MCC

- The Select Board has application and letter of intent from and will act on it at their next meeting.
- Bill contacted Katie Farber, and she expressed interest in filling the one open vacancy. Dave will follow-up

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee:

Village Action Committee

The Scenic Byway has gotten permission to use the little schoolhouse near the dam on the Moretown line. Barry will work to disseminate information about the byway to MCC members.

- Possible meeting Jan 18th.

Conservation Program

- Checks were received for the MCC Conservation fund
- OTT-Steed Application: Bill talked about going to the VhCB for possible funding.
- Bill to reach out to Friends of Worcester's to see if there are pieces of property to be included for this year's Forest Legacy Program
- Discussion about "Warning" the MCC Conservation Fund for this year.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Zoning

- The Town Plan is not ready to be presented for Town Meeting in March. It will be put off probably to November.

- Currently documents are 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 contacted Montpelier trail committee to set up a meeting to see about potential for current or future trails linkage. Dave, Jane, Duncan and Bill expressed interest in the meeting.

Municipal Planning Grant \ Ancient Roads

- **The town of Middlesex was granted \$5000. from the Ancient Roads Planning Grant Program.**
- Suggestion that we talk to the Selectboard and get ok that at town meeting the MCC let the town know that volunteers are needed and wanted.
- Paul Hannan sent a note suggesting how he might contract with the town to help educate those who are interested in researching the ancient road research and planning effort.
- Issues: Unbiased way to propose what the process will look like to deal with Ancient roads that become part of the study
- 3 ways to find ancient roads
 - Anecdotally
 - On the ground
 - In the records, tax maps and minutes
- 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

Community Forestry Update

- Review of Tree Resources Plan
- Morse Town Property potential
- Judy to look at potential for new plantings along our roadways.

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

MCC Display Space at Town Hall

- Looking for space from the windows to the corner. Judy to see about getting a permanent board on the wall.

Other Business

- AVCC has gone from staff to volunteer position.
- Mike Klein will be invited to a February meeting for water resource issues.

Adjournment

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Duncan seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9.05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Sally Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday February 1, 2007
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

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Call to order 7:05

Minutes

Duncan motioned to approve January minutes. Dave seconded. Minutes approved without changes.

Guests: Tim Murphy, Mike Kline, Jane Dudley

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$723.60 as of , January 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$16376.27
- Special Projects fund: \$1237.98
- Rick noted that we will have dollars to pay Middlesex Occasional, and make a contribution to Romney School library fund

Correspondences

- Checks were received from town folks for the conservation fund. Rick put together a letter of thanks for contributions.
- Vtrans sent a letter noting that the Middlesex Vtrans Enhancement Grant was not approved for funding.
- Notice from the D.E.C. Feb. 22 @ 6pm Worcester Town Hall for meeting about the North Branch of the Winooski

Vacancies on the MCC

- The Select Board has approved Scott's position on the MCC.
- Dave contacted Katie Farber, and she expressed interest in filling one open vacancy. Dave will follow-up
- Bill will step down and the MCC will need to fill his seat.

Website Discussion: Web Master, Tim Murphy. Tim builds and maintains the site, but does not do content. He welcomed the MCC to submit a full reporting on activities of the MCC.

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee: Guest, Mike Kline (works with D.E.C.) Mike runs the river science and protection programs for the state.

Great Brook: Update on current status / recent assessment work. 2002 Documented the status of the Great Brook with land slides (called mass wasting) and the streambed digging down.

Potential Future Actions:

- Friends of the Winooski doing a geomorphic assessment of the North Branch. Windshield survey
- This summer, 2007, grant from State to do physical assessment of the North Branch and its tributaries.
- Trout Unlimited: looking at restoration of feeder streams for the Winooski.
- Looking to build database for erosion hazard maps and possible restoration projects.
- Suggest MCC and Select board let DEC, Trout Unlimited and Friends of the Winooski know we are interested in the data and follow-up for erosion hazard and restoration projects.
- Identified a problem with a bank failure across the road from the Romney School
- Suggest we look for the Geologic assessment of the Great Brook that was done as a grant in 2002 as well.
- Possible to look at the Great Brook as part of the Flood Hazard Zoning for the Winooski.

Village Action Committee

The Scenic Byway has gotten permission to use the little schoolhouse near the dam on the Moretown line. Barry will work to disseminate information about the byway to MCC members.

Conservation Program

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Zoning

- The Town Plan is not ready to be presented for Town Meeting in March. It will be put off probably to November.
- Currently documents are 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 contacted Montpelier trail committee to set up a meeting to see about potential for current or future trails linkage. Dave, Jane, Duncan and Bill expressed interest in the meeting.

Municipal Planning Grant \ Ancient Roads

- **The town of Middlesex was granted \$5000. from the Ancient Roads Planning Grant Program.**
- Dave, Scott and Bill met with the Select board Jan 30. The Select board is interested in identifying the class 4 roads on the map clearly. The MCC is ok'ed to work on the Ancient Road project
- The MCC needs to present a blurb to Town Meeting
 - Talk about grant and process
 - What ancient roads are
 - Strategy, town plan, trails, regional effort on trails
 - 1st to identify class 4 roads and create some opening criteria, then once we start looking into maps, then see if we've missed any specific criteria.
 - Suggest March 1 meeting to lay out the criteria. And presentation to town meeting...and criteria for the select board to present to select board March 13th.
- 3 ways to find ancient roads
 - Anecdotally
 - On the ground
 - In the records, tax maps and minutes

Community Forestry Update

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

MCC Display Space and Presentation about Conservation Fund at Town Meeting.

- Article to vote on Conservation Fund.
- Judy to follow up on presentation board and what will be presented.

Other Business

- Meeting with Montpelier about regional trails Feb 8th Montpelier Town Hall.
- Elliot Berg contacted MCC to see if any interest in

Adjournment

Duncan made a motion to adjourn, Scott seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9.05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Sary Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday March 1, 2007

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

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Call to order 7:05

Minutes

Dave motioned to approve February minutes. Duncan seconded. Minutes approved with change to Elliot Burg's reason for coming to the meeting.

Guests: Elliot Burg

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$723.60 as of , January 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$17451.27
- Special Projects fund: \$1287.98
- Discussion about having a MCC checkbook for the special projects fund to simplify accounting for special projects that don't need to be pre-approved.

Correspondences

- Tree Warden Annual Meeting for April 25th

Vacancies on the MCC

- Bill will step down and the MCC will need to fill his seat. This is Bill's last official meeting.

Discussion of Potential Climate Change Action Plan: Guest, Elliot Burg

- 20 towns in the state have a Climate Action Plan.
- Possibilities
 - Energy audits for the town
 - Energy audits for the school (environmental and cost savings)
 - Change a light campaign (Efficiency Vermont have helped with light bulb conversions)
 - Grade 5 -6 classroom demonstration of energy efficiency
 - Ride share challenge
- Elliot looking to have MCC take a lead in Town wide climate change action plans.
- MCC could set up a sub committee. At town meeting get a name \ address \ contact info for any citizens to sign up on a subcommittee. To get townpeople interested in signing up for a committee to work to set up a Climate Action Plan for the Town of Middlesex.
- Dave to look into inviting Coverts and John Austin to talk about wildlife and land conservation efforts in the Worcester range

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee: North Branch meeting scheduled for April

Village Action Committee

Conservation Program:

Ott \Steed update...suggest we talk about it at Town Meeting with the efforts around conservation fund use. Forest Legacy, Town Forest, Friends of the Worcesters, North Branch Stream Restoration. Still lots of opportunity to make these connections.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Zoning

- The Town Plan is not ready to be presented for Town Meeting in March. It will be put off probably to November.
- Currently documents are 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, Barry, Scott and Jayne Dudley attended a meeting with Montpelier about regional trails Feb 8th Montpelier Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to see how the surrounding towns could create a larger connecting trail system.
- Montpelier is working to organize a trails summit of surrounding towns to coordinate the push for adding and connecting recreation trails

Municipal Planning Grant \ Ancient Roads

- **The town of Middlesex was granted \$5000. from the Ancient Roads Planning Grant Program.**
- Dave, and Bill met with the Select board Feb 27. The Select board is interested in identifying the class 4 roads on the map clearly. The MCC is ok'ed to work on the Ancient Road project
- The MCC needs to present a blurb at Town Meeting
 - Talk about grant and process
 - What ancient roads are
 - Strategy, town plan, trails, regional effort on trails
 - 1st to identify class 4 roads and create some opening criteria, then once we start looking into maps, then see if we've missed any specific criteria.
 - Suggest March 1 meeting to lay out the criteria. And presentation to town meeting...and criteria for the select board to present to select board March 13th.

Community Forestry Update

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

MCC Display Space and Presentation about Conservation Fund at Town Meeting.

- Article to vote on Conservation Fund.
- Judy to follow up on presentation board and what will be presented.

Other Business

-

Adjournment

Duncan made a motion to adjourn, Rick seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9.05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday April 5, 2007

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

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Call to order 7:05

Minutes

Guests: Bill Rossmassler, Katy Chabot, Jane Dudley

Treasurer's Report

Rick was unable to attend the meeting but reported that the fund balances are unchanged

- Operating Budget: \$723.60 as of , January 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$17451.27
- Special Projects fund: \$1287.98

Correspondence

- Elliot Burg is interested in attending a League of Cities and Towns meeting about how Towns can get involved with Climate Change Action Plans.

Vacancies on the MCC

Green up Day

- Jeff Koombs, scoutmaster, will be involved with coordinating.
- Green- up day is scheduled for May 5

Wildlife Habitat / Worcester Range Conservation Discussion with the Friends of the Worcester Range

- Guests: John Austin and Jens Hilke _ Vermont Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Lisa Sausville, Vermont Coverts
- Jen's job is to be of service to local Town Conservation groups to help with wildlife planning issues. Lisa helps private landowners with Coverts. Bill Rossmassler hopes to make full use of the public and private help available in our region.
- John Austin: Looking at the Worcester Range as a key...the VT Dept of Fish and Wildlife offers a great place to coordinate the conservation focus
- Possibility of using the Putnam State Forest Management plan as a "model" for coordinating mapping and inventorying of the surrounding natural resource base of the Worcesterers.
- 6 Towns in the range have been involved in conservation related issues.
- Jens: Wildlife is a good focal point to create connectivity by linking issues through wildlife.
- Coverts is all about educating private land owners in forestry and wildlife management (in an economically sustainable way)
- Raised the possibility of the North Branch Nature Center becoming the focal point for education, training, information housing of the Worcesterers.
- Need for rapid ecological assessment of Worcesterers.
- Possible to coordinate with large area landowners with their "information", inventories, goals.
- Private ownership is the key ...get relationships built with landowners on the ground for good management goals to work.
- Suggestion to get a package ...a mosaic of opportunities for the landowner to be involved. Show the pluses and minuses of the different means to manage for wildlife and forestry.
 - Forest legacy
 - Tax incentives
 - Current use
 - Coverts education
 - Land conservation'
 - Easements

Target to start process for June "Friends of the Worcesters" to get conservation commissions involved in getting "Worcester residents involved"

- Schedule May date 5\16 @7:

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee: North Branch meeting scheduled for April

Village Action Committee

Conservation Program:

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Zoning

- Scott reported that he is interested in scouting out a "link" trail along the reservoir to hook into the Montpelier town trail system
- Dave to check with "Forest and Parks", and the agency that manages Wrightsville to see about interest in creating a new trail.

Municipal Planning Grant \ Ancient Roads

Community Forestry Update

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

Other Business

Adjournment

Barry moved to close the meeting, David seconded at 9:30

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday May 3, 2007

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

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Call to order 7:05

Rich moved to approve the March and April minutes, Scott seconded. Approval of the minutes passed

Minutes

Guests: Bill Rossmassler, Katy Chabot, Jane Dudley

Treasurer's Report

Rick was unable to attend the meeting but reported that the fund balances are unchanged

- Operating Budget: \$723.60 as of , January 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$17451.27
- Special Projects fund: \$1287.98
- An Invoice was received from the Middlesex Monthly
- Judy presented an invoice for Vermont Dept of Forest & Parks, Tree Workshop

Correspondence

- Riparian Planting on the Winooski May 6
- Select board is looking for anyone who wants to be the town rep to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District
- League of Cities and Towns passed out a workbook "Essentials of Local Land Use Planning and Regulation"

Annual Meeting Preparation

- Need a meeting place: possible at Wrightsville...theme, Wrightsville Trail possibilities.
- Possible at Shady Rill picnic area.
- Plan to change the meeting date for the annual meeting to June 14th. Dave will post the changing date and location
- Vacancies on the MCC
- Officers
- Bylaws: any changes or proposals?
- Outstanding Middlesex Conservationist. Scott made a motion to nominate Sandy Levine, Rick seconded and all voted in favor.

Green up Day

- Jeff Koombs, scoutmaster, will be involved with coordinating.
- Green- up day is scheduled for May 5
- Conservation Commission has been asked to staff at the Town Garage and we have volunteers.

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee: North Branch meeting scheduled for April

Village Action Committee

Conservation Program:

Conservation Fund: New Fund contribution voted down at Town Meeting.

- Need informational \ educational effort about the fund and land conservation for 2007
- Possible education program for the town. Value of Conservation for the Town. Value of Recreation Land. Establishment of Town Forest.

- Fund Raising Ideas – Calendar....Note Cards
- Possible dinner and education program.
 - Articles for the Middlesex Monthly
 - I.e. zoning vs. land protection. Cost to the town. Tax implications.

Friends of the Worcester Range: Meeting May 21st. Education and Outreach Committee.

North Branch Nature Center: How the Nature Center can provide education for the communities of the Worcester Range.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Zoning

- Scott reported that he is interested in scouting out a “link” trail along the reservoir to hook into the Montpelier town trail system
- Dave to check with “Forest and Parks”, and the agency that manages Wrightsville to see about interest in creating a new trail.

Ancient Roads Research Project

- Public information meeting on May 15th 7pm at Town Hall with Paul Gilles
 - Need two working groups. 1) Research committee 2) Formation of subcommittee to oversee process and interaction with select board with recommendations.

Recreational Trails: Now named the Central Vermont Regional Trails Coalition

- Regional trails meeting April 26th.
- Support to pursue Wrightsville Reservoir Trail as part of a larger vision of connectivity.
- Possible walk through in Wrightsville May 19th to review possibilities.

Mad River Byway: Byway celebration scheduled for May 20th

Community Forestry Update

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

Other Business

Adjournment

Barry moved to close the meeting, David seconded at 9:25

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes - June 14, 2007

Commissioners Present: Scott Gurley, Duncan Nichols, Rick Paradis and Dave Shepard
Guests: Jane Dudley, Collin O'Neal and Susan Warren

This was the annual meeting of the Middlesex Conservation Commission (MCC) and was held at the Wrightsville Reservoir picnic area. As is typical for the annual meeting there was a short business meeting at 6:00 pm followed by a potluck dinner and informal discussion.

Administrative Operations

Minutes for the May meeting were not available so approval of the minutes was postponed to the July meeting.

Dave noted that a subcommittee of the MCC has been formed to address issues related to climate change. This subcommittee will be working on a climate change action plan for Middlesex.

Treasurer's Report

Rick reported the following balances:

- Operating budget = \$523.15
- Conservation Fund = \$17,451.27
- Special Projects Fund = \$1287.98

Invoices submitted for payment:

- Invoice from Rumney School for \$293.91 was submitted for the annual purchase of conservation education related materials.
- Invoice for \$35.00 submitted from Eliot Burg for reimbursement of the cost of attending a climate change workshop. The MCC had previously agreed to pay at least half of the cost of this workshop; at this meeting it was agreed that the MCC would cover the entire cost.
- Invoice from Bill Rossmassler for reimbursement of the cost of photocopying related to the Forest Legacy application submitted in 2006 for the Ott-Steed property.

MCC Officers for 2007

The following officers were elected for the upcoming year:

- Secretary - Barry Goodman
- Treasurer - Rick Paradis
- Chair - Dave Shepard

The remainder of the meeting involved informal discussion with Collin O'Neal, the manager of the Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area of potential trail maintenance and construction projects. Scott and Jane explained a proposal for a trail system at Wrightsville that would be constructed in phases. A potential route for one phase has been flagged. Collin has laid out and constructed the existing trail system and was very supportive of the idea of an expanded trail system as this is something he has been interested in for some time. The MCC agreed to work with Collin on this concept and to work to schedule a trail maintenance day later in the summer or early in the fall to assist Collin with the existing trail system.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Dave Shepard
Chair

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday July 5, 2007

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

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Call to order 7:05

Duncan moved to approve the May and June minutes, Rick seconded. Approval of minutes passed

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
2006-2007 operating budget spent down to \$52.90
- Conservation Fund: \$17451.27
- Special Projects fund: \$1287.98

Correspondence

- Waterbury Leap (Local Energy Action Partnership) July 4th handout.

Vacancies on the MCC

- Gary Miller has resigned
- 3 current vacancies
- suggestion to put an add in the Middlesex Monthly

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee: North Branch Assessment effort. Opportunity to do field work with some training. Next step of Assessment follow-up to last year's windshield survey.

Village Action Committee

- MCC missed the May 30th deadline to submit a letter of intent to Vtrans for this year's enhancement grant funding
- Mad River Byway Celebration held May 20th

Conservation Program:

Conservation Fund: Duncan suggested we look at the town land behind Verizon to clean it up as a town asset, (picnic area?, canoe landing? And give the MCC an on the ground project to work with.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Recreational Trails: Now named the Central Vermont Regional Trails Coalition

- looking to work with Collin O'Neal, to help on the ground trail work in the Wrightsville Dam area. Looking to connect boat access with swim area, and boat access with the dam
- Support given to pursue Wrightsville Reservoir Trail as part of a larger vision of connectivity.

Zoning

Municipal Planning Grant \ Ancient Roads

Dave contacted folks to get Research Group, and Overview Group organized in July and August

Community Forestry Update

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

Other Business

Adjournment

Barry moved to close the meeting, David seconded at 9:30

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday August 2, 2007
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

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Call to order 7:05

Rich moved to approve the March and April minutes, Scott seconded. Approval of the minutes passed

Minutes

Guests: Bill Rossmassler, Katy Chabot, Jane Dudley

Treasurer's Report

Rick was unable to attend the meeting but reported that the fund balances are unchanged

- Operating Budget: \$723.60 as of , January 1
2005-2006 operating budget spent down to \$106.41
- Conservation Fund: \$17451.27
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- An Invoice was received from the Middlesex Monthly
- Judy presented an invoice for Vermont Dept of Forest & Parks, Tree Workshop

Correspondence

- Riparian Planting on the Winooski May 6
- Select board is looking for anyone who wants to be the town rep to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District
- League of Cities and Towns passed out a workbook "Essentials of Local Land Use Planning and Regulation"

Annual Meeting Preparation

- Need a meeting place: possible at Wrightsville...theme, Wrightsville Trail possibilities.
- Possible at Shady Rill picnic area.
- Plan to change the meeting date for the annual meeting to June 14th. Dave will post the changing date and location
- Vacancies on the MCC
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- Bylaws: any changes or proposals?
- Outstanding Middlesex Conservationist. Scott made a motion to nominate Sandy Levine, Rick seconded and all voted in favor.

Green up Day

- Jeff Koombs, scoutmaster, will be involved with coordinating.
- Green- up day is scheduled for May 5
- Conservation Commission has been asked to staff at the Town Garage and we have volunteers.

Committee Reports

Water Quality Committee: North Branch meeting scheduled for April

Village Action Committee

Conservation Program:

Conservation Fund: New Fund contribution voted down at Town Meeting.

- Need informational \ educational effort about the fund and land conservation for 2007
- Possible education program for the town. Value of Conservation for the Town. Value of Recreation Land. Establishment of Town Forest.

- Fund Raising Ideas – Calendar....Note Cards
- Possible dinner and education program.
 - Articles for the Middlesex Monthly
 - I.e. zoning vs. land protection. Cost to the town. Tax implications.

Friends of the Worcester Range: Meeting May 21st. Education and Outreach Committee.

North Branch Nature Center: How the Nature Center can provide education for the communities of the Worcester Range.

Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Zoning

- Scott reported that he is interested in scouting out a “link” trail along the reservoir to hook into the Montpelier town trail system
- Dave to check with “Forest and Parks”, and the agency that manages Wrightsville to see about interest in creating a new trail.

Ancient Roads Research Project

- Public information meeting on May 15th 7pm at Town Hall with Paul Gilles
 - Need two working groups. 1) Research committee 2) Formation of subcommittee to oversee process and interaction with select board with recommendations.

Recreational Trails: Now named the Central Vermont Regional Trails Coalition

- Regional trails meeting April 26th.
- Support to pursue Wrightsville Reservoir Trail as part of a larger vision of connectivity.
- Possible walk through in Wrightsville May 19th to review possibilities.

Mad River Byway: Byway celebration scheduled for May 20th

Community Forestry Update

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

Other Business

Adjournment

Barry moved to close the meeting, David seconded at 9:25

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday September 6, 2007

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

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Guest: Todd Comen

Administrative Operations

Call to order 7:05

Dave moved to approve the July minutes, Scott seconded. Approval of minutes passed

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
2006-2007 operating budget spent down to \$52.90
- Conservation Fund: \$17451.27
- Special Projects fund: \$1287.98

Correspondence

The Northern Forest Alliance is having a meeting to encourage towns to create Town Forests. Saturday sept 8, Craftsbury, VT . note from the Raymonds asking for a conditional use permit to put in a pond on their property at Daniels farm road. Their land borders a class 2 wetland. The MCC choice is to not contest the permit in any way.

Vacancies on the MCC

3 Current Vacancies.

Dave to contact Kathy Chabot, possible Chip Darmstadt. Possible Mike Kline.

Possible high school student? Possible Brian Redmond

Committee Reports

a. Middlesex Energy Team

MCC being copied on their minutes.

They are interested in issues at Rumney, and for the proposed fire station.

b. Water Quality Committee: North Branch Assessment effort

The Nature Center posted along the river for high e-coli counts

c. Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update:

Initial meeting in May. A second training session done by Paul Gilles. Work is underway on the Research piece.

Dave asked if there is anyone from the MCC interested in working on the overview Planning Effort. Judy and Scott may be interested in joining the committee for the overview Planning Effort.

Wrightsville trail proposal update and work day:

Scott drafted a letter to the State Forester about working on the trail network, proposing 3 stages of development and spelling out the challenges of working on these stages. The MCC signed this letter and will send it to Diana Fredericks at Forest and Parks.

d. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update

Appraisal done. \$343,000. Bill has been in contact with VHCB (Vermont Housing Conservation Board) River Conservancy, Middlesex Conservation Fund. Possible funding to make deal happen.

Enhanced Democratization Project

Idea to address issues for Town Meeting. Look to improve discourse in town about Town issues.

i.e. "how land conservation can affect tax rate"

e. Village Action Committee

Potential next steps – Mad River Byway Efforts:

Dave met with selectboard about Byway to make money available to Middlesex's portion for Gateway signage and kiosk. Town needs to sign a maintenance agreement for the Middlesex portion as a signor with

the Moretown Byway committee ...Moretown will be the Ist signor of record, and Middlesex will sign on with Moretown.

Morse Property

MCC will contact the new "to be formed" building committee to make sure there is green space consideration

f. Friends of the Worcester Range Update

Annual meeting in October, probably Oct 6th. 10am-2pm

Wildlife Monitoring Committee

Bill has the camera...we think

Other Business

a. Monthly Articles

Conservation Fund Discussion

Currently conserved lands

Value of conserved lands to Middlesex residents

Friends of the Worcester Range annual meeting

Adjournment

Barry moved to close the meeting, David seconded at 8:45

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday October 4, 2007

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

Middlesex Town Offices

Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

____xBarry Goodman

____xJudy Keyes

____Duncan Nichols

____xRick Paradis

____xDave Shepard

____xScott Gurley

Guest:

Administrative Operations

The meeting started at 7:05, Rick motioned to approve the minutes, Scott seconded. The minutes passed.

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
2006-2007 operating budget spent down to \$52.90
- Conservation Fund: \$17451.27
- Special Projects fund: \$1287.98

Correspondence

AVCC note of Autumn Celebration Sat. Oct 27 at Vermont Technical College, Old Dorm Lounge

The Raymonds received conditional use determination from the agency of Natural Resources for the permit to put in a pond on their property at Daniels farm road. Their land borders a class 2 wetland.

Vacancies on the MCC

3 Current Vacancies.

Dave tried to contact Kathy Chabot, and Steve Hagenbuch, possible Chip Darmstadt. Possible Mike Kline.

Possible high school student? Possible Brian Redmond

Committee Reports

a. Middlesex Energy Team

MCC being copied on their minutes.

They are interested in issues for the proposed fire station.

b. Water Quality Committee: Town did work on lower McCullough Hill Rd. The slope is steep. David suggested that the MCC or the boy scouts or the Youth Conservation Corps might want to look into tree planting uphill on the slope.

c. Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update:

Work is underway on the Research piece.

Dave said that a first meeting as the Ancient Roads Review Committee for the planning overview piece, has taken place.

Dave talked mostly about the legislation and impact on Ancient Roads. Judy and Scott may be interested in joining the committee for the overview Planning Effort.

Wrightsville trail proposal update and work day:

Scott drafted a letter to the State Forester about working on the trail network, proposing 3 stages of development and spelling out the challenges of working on these stages. The MCC signed this letter and sent it to Diana Fredericks at Forest and Parks. The letter was sent in mid September.

d. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update

Appraisal done. \$343,000. Bill has been in contact with VHCB (Vermont Housing Conservation Board) River Conservancy, Middlesex Conservation Fund. Possible funding to make deal happen. Nov. 19th deadline to get an application into the VHCB for funding. Dave looking to get on the SelectBoard meeting for Oct 23 to see how the town would like to see the property used if it can be purchased and conserved.

Enhanced Democratization Project

Idea to address issues for Town Meeting. Look to improve discourse in town about Town issues.

i.e. "how land conservation can affect tax rate"

e. Village Action Committee

Morse Property

MCC will contact the new “to be formed” building committee to make sure there is green space consideration.

A suggestion was made that someone from the Village should be on this ‘Fire House Building Committee’.

f. Friends of the Worcester Range Update

Annual meeting October, 6th. 10am-2pm. Rick and Dave hope to attend.

g. Wildlife Monitoring Committee

Bill has the camera, Judy or Scott may be interested in using it.

Other Business

a. Monthly Articles

Conservation Fund Discussion

Currently conserved lands

Value of conserved lands to Middlesex residents

Friends of the Worcester Range annual meeting

Adjournment

Scott moved to close the meeting, Judy seconded at 8:48

Respectfully Submitted

Sary Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday November 1, 2007

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

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Guest: Jane Dudley

Administrative Operations

The meeting started at 7:25, It was moved to Barry Goodman's house as the key to the Town Hall was not available. Rick motioned to approve the minutes, Scott seconded. The minutes passed.

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
2006-2007 operating budget spent down to \$52.90
- Conservation Fund: \$17451.27
- Special Projects fund: \$1287.98

Correspondence

Vacancies on the MCC

3 Current Vacancies. Need to put ad in Middlesex Monthly

Dave tried to contact Kathy Chabot, and Steve Hagenbuch, possible Chip Darmstadt. Possible Mike Kline.

Possible high school student? Possible Brian Redmond. Hal Cohen? Jessica Brown? (center rd). Jane Dudley?

Committee Reports

a. Water Quality Committee: Note from Ned Swanburg, state about new flood zone mapping. Towns need to do, or re-do maps starting August 2008 to qualify for flood insurance. Dave will forward this information to the Planning Committee

b. Resource Planning Committee | Recreation Trails Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update:

Wrightsville trail proposal update and work day:

Scott spoke to Ron Wells about trails and the State suggested the MCC apply for a Recreational Trails Grant (due Jan. 15).

1st phase possibility of trails from picnic area to boat launch, and 2nd phase from boat launch to dam. There needs to be a town match for a recreational trails grant....can it be in kind? The State has voiced support for the concept of building trails on the western side of Wrightsville. Ron and Scott may walk the proposed area after hunting season.

c. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update

Appraisal done. \$343,000. Vermont Land Trust will take lead on grant application. Bill has been in contact with VHCB (Vermont Housing Conservation Board) Vermont River Conservancy will head up fund raising. Middlesex Conservation Fund may have possible funding to contribute to make deal happen. Nov. 19th deadline to get an application into the VHCB for funding. Dave and Bill meet with the SelectBoard meeting Oct 16th to see how the town would like to see the property used if it can be purchased and conserved. The Selectboard was open to the possibility of creating a Town Forest with this land and using some of the Middlesex Conservation Fund toward the purchase of this property.

The Selectboard is open to the MCC to ask for additional funding for the conservation fund, especially if the Town Forest can become a reality.

d. Village Action Committee

Morse Property

MCC will contact the new "to be formed" building committee to make sure there is green space consideration.

Madriver Byway has gotten their grant and looking to Middlesex to sign a joint agreement for the grant. The Byway committee will be putting out an RFP for signage and brochures.

e. Wildlife Monitoring Committee

Bill brought the camera. Dave took the camera to pass it on to Judy. Bill will create a checklist of items with the camera.

We need to get John Austin's one page town procedure page and sign out sheet. (a requirement should be to share the pictures.)

f. Community Forestry Committee

Dave suggested a possible community tree pruning day at Rumney School

Dave revisited idea of possible tree planting at the Center Rd Cemetary.

Suggestion to look at taking down the east side tree that is failing and coordinate that with a replanting. Talk to the selectboard and tree warden and cemetery committee.

Dave presented a simple form for a "Middlesex Big Tree Tally"

Other Business

a. Monthly Articles

Conservation Fund Discussion

Currently conserved lands

Value of conserved lands to Middlesex residents

Friends of the Worcester Range annual meeting

Article on Vermont Town Forest Projects

b. Bill suggested that Rumney gets an Energy Tool Kit in the conservation section at the Library.

Adjournment

Rick moved to close the meeting, David seconded at 9:10

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday December 6, 2007

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

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

David moved to approve November 2007 minutes, Rick seconded and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
2006-2007 operating budget spent down to \$52.90
- Conservation Fund: \$ 21,828.05
- Special Projects fund: \$2359.66 (May include the Operating Budget of \$1000. Rick will check)
- Rick proposed a new budget to send to the Select Board for approval. It is identical to the current year's operating budget and is a total of \$1,000.

Correspondence

A Thank you note was received from Mrs. Domanski's 1st and 2nd grades for the MCC donation of "Good Stuff" that they can use in the classrooms.

The MCC received a copy of the Vermont Land Trust's Annual Report

Vacancies on the MCC

4 Current Vacancies. Duncan Nichols has asked to step down as he is working hard on the Ancient Roads work.

Dave announced that Eric Seidel would like to join the MCC and we will send his name on to the Select Board for approval.

Committee Reports

a. Water Quality Committee

b. Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update:

Second ancient roads Review Committee met Nov. 29th. The committee is working on criteria on how to deal with any ancient roads that are discovered by the research group.

Wrightsville trail proposal update and work day:

c. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update

The VHCB grant has been applied for.

d. Village Action Committee

Morse Property

MCC will contact the new "to be formed" building committee to make sure there is green space consideration.

Mad River Byway has gotten their grant and looking to Middlesex to sign a joint agreement for the grant. The Byway committee has sent out an RFP for signage and brochures and received two proposals. The committee will be meeting this month to decide who will be asked to start the work.

e. Wildlife Monitoring Committee

f. Community Forestry Committee

There is a MCC planned community tree-pruning day at Rumney School Dec 8th 9:30 – 11:30

Dave revisited idea of possible tree planting at the Center Rd Cemetery.

Suggestion to look at taking down the east side tree that is failing and coordinate that with a replanting. Talk to the select board and tree warden and cemetery committee.

Dave presented a simple form for a "Middlesex Big Tree Tally"

Other Business

a. Monthly Articles

Conservation Fund Discussion

 Currently conserved lands

 Value of conserved lands to Middlesex residents

Friends of the Worcester Range annual meeting

Article on Vermont Town Forest Projects

Article on the Mad River Byway

Adjournment

Rick moved to close the meeting, David seconded at 8:40

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary