

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday January 10, 2008
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 by David @ 7:15 after pictures were taken for the Middlesex Operators Manual
Judy moved to approve December 2007 minutes, Rick seconded and the minutes were approved. 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: \$ 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 note about Moretown landfill proposing to build a waste to energy facility

Guests

Eric Seidel, Bill Rossmassler

Vacancies on the MCC

Eric Seidel would like to join the MCC and his name was sent on to the Select Board for approval.

Middlesex Energy Team Update: Elliot Burg

Middlesex Energy Team Ideas: 1) Rumney Physical Plant. 2) Rumney Curriculum – VEEP (programs on energy and climate change) 3) Compact Florescent Lights. 4) Home energy conservation workshop 5) Town survey on energy use 6) Baseline Data 7) Community Resources 8) Communications 9) Mission Statement 10) Recruiting 11) Municipal Building
Steps: 1. info to hand out at town meeting and survey 2. Possible mini workshop on home energy conservation 3) transportation committee

Committee Reports

a. Water Quality Committee

b. Resource Planning Committee | Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update:

Wrightsville trail proposal update and work day: ANR has given verbal approval to build some trails at Wrightsville Reservoir. Maximum \$ available for a recreational trails grant is \$40,000. Interested in using VYCC labor. David will call Peter Hood to get permission to apply for a planning grant for the available \$7400. Scott will proceed in working on the grant application and hopes to make the January 15th deadline for submission.

c. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update

Still possible VHCB money available on this round. Second Grant application in with Vermont River Conservancy to find matching funds.

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 The Byway committee met Jan 1 to address questions concerning the approval of using Land Works to fulfill the Grant for signage, education, traffic calming and information kiosks. It is probable that Byway status is going to be granted to Rt 100 from Waterbury to Granville Gulf. The committee is planning on meeting with the regional planning group Jan 17th to coordinate the possibility to work as a larger Byway group.

e. Wildlife Monitoring Committee

f. Community Forestry Committee

Other Business

a. Monthly Articles

1. Town Forest Article #2?
2. Public lands in Middlesex
3. Wildlife camera

Adjournment

David moved to close the meeting, Barry seconded at 9:15

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
February 7, 2008

Present: Scott Gurley, Judy Keyes and Dave Shepard

Administrative Operations:

Meeting Minutes:

Dave noted that two items on last month's meeting minutes (comments on the Treasurer's Report and the Morse Property) were actually left over from the previous month's minutes. Dave made a motion to approve the minutes with changes to these items. Scott seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

Dave said that he and Rick met with June Lakin to review the available funds. They determined that \$5,000 was accidentally credited to the MMC and that another \$1,000 donation was placed into the wrong fund. Therefore, the current totals are:

Special Projects Fund: \$1,359.66

Conservation Fund: \$17,828.05

Review Correspondences:

Dave read a memo from June Lakin notifying the MMC that meetings must be warned and posted and that an organizational meeting must be held after Town Meeting. No other correspondences were received.

Committee Reports:

Water Quality:

Dave discussed the project to plant trees at the bottom of McCullough Hill Road and suggested several affordable options for buying plantings.

Recreational Trails:

Scott gave an update on the project to build trails at Wrightsville Reservoir. Scott and Dave decided not submit an application for a Recreational Trails Grant for several reasons: 1) the Selectboard wanted to discuss the project before giving its approval to the idea; 2) we did not have all the letters of support that were needed for the application; and 3) Scott got sick the weekend before the application was due. Scott pointed out that this will not preclude us from starting work on the Trail this summer. The alignment can be established and some of the basic clearing can be done. Scott will get Judy a project description and a map to post on the display board for Town Meeting.

Conservation Program Update:

Dave mentioned that the Governor's proposed cuts to the budget of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board may impact funding for the Ott/Stead project.

Village Action Committee:

Morse Property:

Dave said there will be a vote at Town Meeting on whether or not to purchase land for the new fire station. Another vote on funding the new building will follow in November.

Community Forestry Committee

Judy said she will follow up with the Town to see if there are any plans for the large trees at the cemetery on Center Road.

Dave discussed a project to catalogue the largest trees of each species in Middlesex. He passed out samples of a form that will be used to record each tree.

Wildlife

Dave contacted the Feldmans and they indicated that they'll be organizing the salamander migration again this year. There is a need for someone to help with the phone tree however.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The date for the next meeting has yet to be determined but will not be the usual first Thursday.

Minutes recorded by Scott Gurley

**Middlesex Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
March 12, 2008**

Dave Shepard, Rick Paradis, Eric Seidel, and Scott Gurley attended the meeting.

Administrative Operations:

Meeting Minutes:

The February Meeting Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Rick reported that as of February 8th, the totals are:

Conservation Commission Budget (Special Projects Fund): \$1,344.92

Conservation Fund: \$18,054.84

Operating Budget: \$1,000

Rick pointed out that the current Operating Budget can be used through the end of this fiscal year. We need to contact Neely Washington about invoicing the MCC for our usual contribution to the Middlesex Monthly for publishing news and articles from the MCC.

Review Correspondences:

Dave passed around an announcement for a Town Forest Summit that the Northern Forest Alliance is sponsoring on March 22 in Hinesburg.

Selection of Officers for the Year:

Eric nominated Dave for Chair and Scott and Rick seconded his nomination. Dave said that this would be his final year as Chair but that he would like to remain on the Commission. There were no volunteers to serve as Vice Chair so the position will remain vacant.

Rick announced that he will be stepping down from the MCC effective at the end of the fiscal year. He agreed to continue to serve as Treasurer with the understanding that Scott will be in line to succeed him. Scott nominated Rick for Treasurer and it was seconded by Eric.

Dave nominated Barry for Secretary and it was seconded by Scott.

All of the above positions were filled by the nominated candidates by unanimous vote.

Dave discussed some possible candidates to serve on the MCC.

Committee Reports:

Water Quality:

Dave mentioned a potential project to plant trees at the bottom of McCullough Hill Road. Dave said he will make some calls to find out more about the site.

Resource Planning/Recreational Trails:

Dave noted that the Town Plan was approved with language that supports the creation of recreation trails. A discussion followed concerning whether or not the MCC should have input on Planning Commission items. Rick mentioned a subdivision on the North Branch River near Putnamville that was reviewed recently by the Planning Commission. Everyone agreed that it would be desirable for the MCC to be informed of such projects.

Conservation Program Update:

Dave said that his wife Susan is willing to design a calendar as a fund-raiser for the MCC. The calendar will contain scenic and wildlife photos taken in Middlesex.

Community Forestry:

Dave has written an article about the Big Tree project that he plans to submit to the Middlesex Monthly.

Wildlife:

Dave noted that Judy still has the remote camera. He also mentioned that salamander season is approaching and that it might be another potential subject for an article in the Middlesex Monthly.

Village Action:

Dave said that Barry still intends to apply for a VTrans Enhancement Grant this year. Scott pointed out that a public meeting on the proposed project is required prior to the application due date in early September. The MCC will need to contact the Selectboard about getting on a future meeting agenda so that the MCC can discuss the grant application with the Selectboard.

Minutes recorded by Scott Gurley

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
April 3, 2008

Dave Shepard, Scott Gurley, Eric Seidel, Fred McCullough, Aaron Moore and Patty Wiley attended the meeting.

Administrative Operations:

Meeting Minutes:

The March Meeting Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

No Treasurer's Report this month without Rick. Dave noted that the balances from the previous month have probably not changed.

Review Correspondences:

No Correspondences this month.

MCC Vacancies – Dave is still trying to contact people to see if they would be interested in joining the MCC. Aaron is a potential member who attended the meeting.

Dave noted that his term needs to be renewed. Terms are usually for 4 years.

Ancient Roads Update:

Patty Wiley arrived to discuss the Ancient Roads Research Project. She said that researching the town records is a very slow process. It involves photo-copying town records that discuss the survey of roads. There are 95 volumes of the town land records and very few mention roads.

After roads are identified, they need to be loaded into a software program that plots the meets and bounds on a town map. The software costs \$200 for a CD, manual and one license. The State Grant can be used to pay for the software. Dave said that very little of the \$5,000 state grant has been spent to date.

The deadline for reporting ancient roads to VTrans is February 2009. There is some talk about extending the deadline. Roads can be added to the Town Map until 2015 but it is a more difficult process after the 2009 deadline.

Committee Reports:

Water Quality:

Dave mentioned a potential project to plant trees at the bottom of McCullough Hill Road. Fred said that he thought the area was mostly stone and questioned if trees would be able to grow there.

Resource Planning/Recreational Trails:

Dave mentioned that he spoke with Dick Alderman from the Planning Commission and learned that Steve Martin is the new chair of the Planning Commission. Dave will contact Steve about sharing meeting agendas in the future.

Wrightsville Trails: Dave noted that there is a new Trail Coordinator for ANR. Scott said that he would contact him soon to arrange a site meeting.

Conservation Program Update:

Calendar for fundraising – Dave said there will be an upfront cost for printing the calendar. There was some discussion about the number of calendars to print and the selling price for each calendar. It was agreed that 250 calendars would be a good number to print. They would sell for about \$10. Eric made a motion to use the Special Projects Fund to print the Calendars and Scott seconded the motion.

Village Action:

Dave summarized the Enhancement Project in the Village. He said that a letter of intent is likely due sometime in May. Scott said he would check to see when the letter is due. He also said that a letter of support from the Selectboard will be required.

Community Forestry Committee:

Dave said there is nothing new to report. He said that a contact will be made with the organization that oversees the private cemetery on Center Road to see if they would be interested in the Commission planting some replacement maple trees.

Wildlife:

Dave said that he spoke with the Feldmans and suggested to them that their data on the salamander migration could be the subject for an article. They are also still looking for someone to start the phone tree on the night of the migration.

Green-up Day:

Green-up Day is the first Saturday in May. The MCC will staff the Town Garage. Jeff Koonz is the Boy Scout Leader who is organizing the event.

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday May 1, 2008

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

Middlesex Town Offices

Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman

Judy Keyes

Eric Seidel

Rick Paradis

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Treasurer's Report according to MCC Bank Statement

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
2006-2007 operating budget spent down to \$52.90
- Conservation Fund: \$ 18,088.83
- Special Projects fund: \$1345.59

Correspondence

3rd annual Vermont Clean Water day is June 7th at Manchester Town Green.

Planning for Annual Meeting

- a. Middlesex Conservationist of the Year: A nominee was proposed and approved
- b. Format and Location: proposed to have meeting at Wrightsville Reservoir. Scott will contact Ron Wells and Collin O'Neill about the annual meeting and a possible walk through of the proposed trail system.
- c. pot luck for dinner.

Priorities for the New Year:

Wrightsville Trails

Ancient Roads

Enhancement Grant \ Village

100B Scenic Byway

Committee Reports

a. Water Quality Committee

McCullough Hill Road Project. Work at the bottom of McCullough Hill Rd to plant some scrubs or trees to hold the slope above the brook. Dave to talk to Mike Kline about some recommendations.

b. Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update: Meeting set up with Paul Gilles for May 8th to work on computer plotting on maps of some of the "found" roads.

Wrightsville trail proposal update and workday: Scott to coordinate a walk through with the State folks, (Ron Wells)

c. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update

Meeting with VHCB May 9th. Still possible VHCB money available on this round. Vermont Land Trust interested in meeting in town to work on possible fund raising strategies for the land purchase.

d. Village Action Committee

Vtrans Enhancement Grant 2008: The senate has placed a moratorium on 2009 grants, and Vtrans is awaiting conference committee decision to decide if the program will be funded this year.

Mad River Byway The Byway committee will have a public meeting May 8 to address questions concerning the Grant for signage, education, traffic calming and information kiosks. Byway status has been granted to Rt 100 from Waterbury to Granville Gulf, with a small section Duxbury not included.

e. Wildlife Monitoring Committee:

Salamander Migration Update

Waste Management:

Green up day scheduling

f. Community Forestry Committee

Other Business

a. Monthly Articles

4. Town Forest Article #2?
5. Public lands in Middlesex
6. Wildlife camera

Adjournment

Eric moved to close the meeting, Scott seconded at 9:15

Respectfully Submitted

Sary Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday June 5, 2008
6:00 p.m. to 8:300 p.m.
Wrightsville Beach Recreation Area
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman
 Judy Keyes

Eric Seidel
 Rick Paradis
 Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Scott moved to approve May's minutes, Eric seconded. Minutes approved
Guests: Mike Kline, Bill Rossmassler, Jane Dudley

Treasurer's Report according to MCC Bank Statement

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
2006-2007 operating budget spent down to \$52.90
- Conservation Fund: \$ 18,088.83
- Special Projects fund: \$1345.59
- Invoice, Middlesex Occasional \$200.
- Times Argus invoice

Correspondence

North Branch Stream Geomorphic Study. Looking for volunteers. Focus on Middlesex.

MCC Table at Rumney School Fair. June 8th MCC 10am-2pm

Potluck Dinner

MCCer's dug into another groups food at the table assumed as ours. Opps. We shared our food as well.

- a. Middlesex Conservationist of the Year: Bill Rossmassler was recognized for all the years of hard work for the MCC and the Town of Middlesex
- b. Format and Location: proposed to have meeting at Wrightsville Reservoir. Scott will contact Ron Wells and Collin O'Neill about the annual meeting and a possible walk through of the proposed trail system.
- c. pot luck for dinner.

Committee Reports

- a) Wrightsville Trails: There is an A&R approval in hand to begin work. MCC did a May walk through. Scott is organizing a trails work day.
- b) Enhancement Grant \Village: A letter of Intent was submitted to Vtrans with the intention of submitting a grant application to Vtrans due late august '08
- c) 100B Scenic Byway: The selectboard supports the placement of the Byway Information Kiosk on Town land by the Town Hall. They asked for follow-up with plans and drawings when available.
- d) first "Big Tree Report" submitted

Other Business

- a. Monthly Articles
 7. Town Forest Article #2?
 8. Public lands in Middlesex
 9. Wildlife camera

Adjournment

Eric moved to close the meeting, Scott seconded at 8:30

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday July 9, 2008

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

Middlesex Town Offices

Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman

Judy Keyes

Eric Seidel

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Dave made a motion to approve the June minutes. Eric seconded and the vote passed with minutes approved.

Guests: Bill Rossmassler. Amos Baehr..

Treasurer's Report according to MCC Bank Statement

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
- Conservation Fund: \$ 18,088.83 (not updated July 9, 2008)
- Special Projects fund: \$1345.59 (not updated July 9, 2008)
- Vermont Conservation Commission sent out a renewal for membership. \$50 annual fee. It was agreed that the membership fee should be paid.

Correspondence

Vtrans Enhancement Grant Discussion- Guest Patty Wiley

- a. Need to contact the District Transportation Administrator for written comment.
- b. Historical society interested in saving the Old Train Station. Uli Schuette interested in rehab-ing the building as a building design studio. Uli interested in fixing the roof to stabilize the structure. Since it would be a "private" business structure it would not be appropriate for Vtrans enhancement funding at this time.
- c. Suggested to propose for the Enhancements.
 - a. Sidewalk from Country Store to Town Hall with Pedestrian Amenities
 - b. Gateway signage
 - c. Replace southern guardrail over box culvert south of Camp Meade.
 - d. Looking to meet with Selectboard July 22 for guidance on the grant application.

Committee Reports

a. Water Quality Committee

b. Resource Planning Committee | Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update: The Group met with Paul Gilles to work on computer plotting on maps of some of the "found" roads. 90% of the research is done.

Wrightsville trail workday : Had a workday, late June. 4 people worked on 3/4 mile of trail

c. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update: Working on a strategy to raise \$30,000 as match through VLT (Vermont Land Trust)

Friends of Worcester Range: Amos looking to coordinate with all 6 towns to have an event with each town around the range. May have the hoped for dedication of the Middlesex Town Forest as Middlesex's meeting in the Worcesters. Chance to coordinate town plans, forest plans, conservation plans along the 6 towns of the Worcesters.

July 19th..the Green Mountain Club (Waterbury) has a scheduled walk to the highest point in the Worcesters. Theme will be "Trails".

d. Mad River Byway: Meeting continue to act on and plan for kiosks and signage with the current grant. Next meeting scheduled for July 10 in Moretown.

e. Tree Committee: Patty Wiley requested that the MCC might plant a new tree or trees at the Middlesex Cemetery on the Center Rd. The idea is to replace those trees that have come down.

Other Business

a. Monthly Articles

10. Town Forest Update

11. Update on Town Forest Campaign for funds.

Adjournment

Eric moved to close the meeting, Barry seconded at 9:15

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday August 12, 2008

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Middlesex Town Offices

Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman

Judy Keyes

Eric Seidel

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Eric made a motion to approve the July minutes. Scott seconded and the vote passed with minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report according to MCC Bank Statement

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
- Conservation Fund: \$ 18,088.83 (not updated August 2008)
- Special Projects fund: \$1345.59 (not updated August, 2008)

Correspondence

Vtrans Enhancement Grant Discussion-

- d. August 12, 2008 met with the District Transportation Administrator for written comment.
- e. Historical society interested in saving the Old Train Station. Uli Schuette interested in rehab-ing the building as a building design studio. Uli interested in fixing the roof to stabilize the structure. Since it would be a "private" business structure it would not be appropriate for Vtrans enhancement funding at this time.
- f. Suggested to propose for the Enhancements.
 - a. Gateway signage
 - b. Replace north and south guardrail over box culvert south of Camp Meade.
 - c. Bus Stop on south side of route 2
- d. Public Meeting was properly noticed in the newspapers and posted at the school. The Public Meeting took place August 12, 2008 as part of the bi-monthly Town Select board meeting. The Select board approved the initial Project Narrative for the Enhancement Grant.

Committee Reports

a. Water Quality Committee

b. Resource Planning Committee | Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update: The Group met with Paul Gilles to work on computer plotting on maps of some of the "found" roads. 90% of the research is done.

Wrightsville trail workday: Had a workday, August 5th. Scott reports they are 2/3 of the distance toward the beach. Scott has an additional workday planned for Tuesday evening August 19th from 5pm to 7pm. Scott will also contact VYCC about work crews for next work season.

c. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update: no update

Friends of Worcester Range: no update

d. Mad River Byway: Barry met with the Select board July 22nd and they gave a go ahead for placement of an information kiosk on town property next to the town hall. Next meeting scheduled for August 28th in Moretown.

e. Tree Committee: no update

Other Business

a. Monthly Articles

12. Town Forest Update

13. Update on Town Forest Campaign for funds.

Adjournment

Scot moved to close the meeting, Barry seconded at 7pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday September 4, 2008
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman
 Judy Keyes

Eric Seidel
 Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

guest Amos Baehr, Worcester

Administrative Operations

Eric made a motion to approve the August minutes. Scott seconded and the vote passed with minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report according to MCC Bank Statement

- Operating Budget: \$1000.00 as of , July 1
- Conservation Fund: \$ 18,088.83 (not updated Sept 2008)
- Special Projects fund: \$1345.59 (not updated September, 2008)
- Barry submitted two invoices for the 2009 Vtrans grant application.

Correspondence

Letter from Button up Vermont: (energy audit info)and Energy Savings Workshops in your community
Vt. Woodlands Assoc. offering an education workshop September 15th weekend.

Committee Reports

a. Resource Planning Committee | Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update:

Wrightsville trail workday: Had a workday August 20th. Scott would like one more day if possible. Scott plans to approach VCC to see about getting a grant to hire them to help build the trail.

b. Community Forestry Committee: David will touch base with the community forester (Michael Paterson) about replacement trees for the Cemetery trees on the Center Rd.

- Big Trees: folks are submitting "big tree statistics"

c. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update: Working on town fund raising.

d. Friends of Worcester Range: Amos Baehr Objective to coordinate events around the Worcester Range towns. Wish to build Worcester Range event and discussion around Town Forests as Ott/Steed comes about. Could be fund raising event or celebration about Town Forests. Issues could be i.e. Forestry, wildlife, recreation, etc.

e. Village Action Committee:

Mad River Byway: Barry met with the Select board July 22nd and they gave a go ahead for placement of an information kiosk on town property next to the town hall.

Vtrans Enhancement Grant Discussion-

- g. Suggested to propose for the Enhancements.
- a. Gateway signage
 - b. Replace north and south guardrail over box culvert south of Camp Meade.
 - c. Bus Stop on south side of route 2

b. Public Meeting was properly noticed in the newspapers and posted at the school. The Public Meeting took place August 12, 2008 as part of the bi-monthly Town Select board meeting. The Select board approved the initial Project Narrative for the Enhancement Grant. Barry submitted the 2009 Vtrans Enhancement Grant August 26th, on schedule. The town should hear about acceptance or rejection of the Grant Application by December of 2008.

Other Business

Adjournment

Scot moved to close the meeting, Barry seconded at 8:30pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday October 2, 2008
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman
 Judy Keyes

Eric Seidel
 Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

guest Amos Baehr, Worcester

Administrative Operations

Eric made a motion to approve the September minutes. Dave seconded and the vote passed with minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report according to MCC Bank Statement

- Operating Budget: \$644.74
- Conservation Fund: \$ 18,362.66
- Special Projects fund: \$1397.37
- Scott reported 4 checks came in. Two checks for the Town Forest. 1 Check for the special projects fund

Correspondence

- River Conservancy celebration for conservation projects on the North Branch.
- Button Up Vermont October 3, in Worcester.
- October 18th, Trail design and usage workshop by Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

Committee Reports

a. Resource Planning Committee | Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update: Scott met with two VYCC members about the Wrightsville trail. VYCC may work for 3 weeks and do bridges at two locations and improve other stream approaches. Scott will apply for a VYCC grant (Labor). Applications due November 3rd. Possible Watershed Grant from ANR for materials. If needed the MCC agrees that some cost could be paid for by the MCC Special Projects Fund to cover costs that don't get grant funded.

b. Community Forestry Committee: David wrote a note to the Cemetery commissioners about replacement trees for the Cemetery trees on the Center Rd. We may need funds to take down the dead tree at the Cemetery. David will check to see if there are tree warden funds for either take down or planting of a replacement trees.

- Big Trees: folks are submitting "big tree statistics" Dave will see about having the Big Tree measurements put on the town web site.

c. Conservation Program:

Ott/Steed update: Working on town fund raising for the local match of the Town Forest purchase. There was a second article in the Middlesex Occasional about Town Forests.

d. Friends of Worcester Range: Possible meeting Oct 25th or 26th Amos Baehr Objective to coordinate events around the Worcester Range towns. Wish to build Worcester Range event and discussion around Town Forests as Ott\Steed comes about. Could be fund raising event or celebration about Town Forests. Issues could be i.e. Forestry, wildlife, recreation, etc.

e. Village Action Committee:

Mad River Byway: Barry met with the Byway Committee. There are plans for the information Kiosk and trailblazer Byway signs in Middlesex.

Other Business

North Branch meeting, Oct 9th Montpelier city hall 7pm.

Adjournment

Scott moved to close the meeting, Eric seconded at 8:10pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday November 6, 2008

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Middlesex Town Offices

Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman

Judy Keyes

Eric Seidel

Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

guest Emily Sloan, , Mark Powell, John Mallery, Peg Schwartz, Jim Bezak, Fran Mallery, Jackie Earle, Patty Machanoff (Worcester) Steve Libby (Vt River Conservancy) Rick Drutchas, Aaron Moore, Middlesex

Administrative Operations

Scott made a motion to approve the October minutes. Dave seconded and the vote passed with minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report according to MCC Bank Statement of September

- Operating Budget: \$644.74
- Conservation Fund: \$ 18,362.66
- Special Projects fund: \$1397.37

Administrative Operations

Review commission budget for Fiscal 2010.

Proposal to submit the budget with the same breakdowns as this past year. More dollars moved to correspondences \ mailings \ and administration mailing.

Correspondence

Potential Conservation project on the North Branch in Middlesex and Worcester: 100 acres, Subdivided land, but no development at this time. 3 lots Middlesex, 1 Worcester. North Branch meanders through this area. Owner was contacted by the River Conservancy and owner agreed to learn more about a conservation project on this land. Steve Libby wants to get a sense of interest from the two affected towns.

- Habitat protection Issues (turtles)
- Conservation Issues
- Development restrictions?
- Public Recreation possibilities
- Easements for river protection of geomorphic river issues.

Possible steps:

Conversation with the land owner to see what the project might look like.

- If interest, then a appraisal would be made on the property
- After appraisal..then project is fleshed out and proposed.

Committee Reports

a. Resource Planning Committee \ Recreation Trials Committee

Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update: review of \$'s used from the grant needed to conclude this grant cycle.

Wrightsville Trail : Scott talking to VYCC and looking for new grants for trail work.

b. Community Forestry Committee: David wrote a note to the Cemetery commissioners about replacement trees for the Cemetery trees on the Center Rd. The Town Road crew took down the dead tree. David will check to see if there are tree warden funds for either take down or planting of a replacement trees.

- Big Trees: folks are submitting "big tree statistics" Dave will see about having the Big Tree measurements put on the town web site.

c. Conservation Program:

Town forest walk: Oct 26th. Fund raising of town wide mailing.

Ott/Steed update: Working on town fund raising for the local match of the Town Forest purchase. There was a second article in the Middlesex Occasional about Town Forests.

e. Village Action Committee:

Mad River Byway: Barry met with the Byway Committee. There are plans for the information Kiosk and trailblazer Byway signs in Middlesex.

f. Scott trying to find information on the ownership of the Middlesex Train Station.

g. David brought up the question of making a Conservation Fund Request for 2009

h. quick discussion of the Morse Property. Barry to let the Byway Committee know of it for possible pocket park development.

Other Business

Adjournment

Scott moved to close the meeting, Barry seconded at 9:10pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Barry Goodman

Secretary

MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday December 4, 2008
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Middlesex Town Offices
Middlesex, VT

MINUTES

Commissioners Present

Barry Goodman
 Judy Keyes

Eric Seidel
 Dave Shepard

Scott Gurley

Administrative Operations

Minutes from the November 6, 2008 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report according to MCC Bank Statement of September

- Scott reported that there had been no activity and that he intended to meet with June to clear up a few transaction questions.

Administrative Operations

Correspondence

Dave reported an upcoming meeting concerning the Winooski River Basin Plan

Committee Reports

a. Resource Planning Committee | Recreation Trials Committee

- Scott continues to investigate working with VYCC on trail project next year.

b. Ancient Roads Research and Planning Effort Update:

- Work continues with mapping. Should be ready for on the ground work in late spring.

c. Community Forestry Committee: Dave reported that the Town road crew had the dead tree taken down at the Middlesex Center Cemetery. He will be in touch with the Cemetery Commission regarding replacement trees.

d. Conservation Program.

- Bill Rossmassler joined the group to discuss status of the Middlesex Town Forest project. With a major recent donation the project is very near completion. Bill discussed some management access details that need to be ironed out. We discussed trying to retain some of the funds in the Middlesex Conservation fund, if possible, while still getting to the final goal. Posters are on sale at the Red Hen.
- Forest Management Plan Documents. We reviewed and found the documents to form a good basis for use (with minor revisions) in closing on the property.
- Conservation Fund request for 2009. The group decided not to make a request for the coming fiscal year.

Other Business

Adjournment

Scott moved to close the meeting, Eric Seconded. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00PM

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Seidel (substitute)

Secretary