

## TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Friday, August 25, 2023

12:00 – 1:30 PM

In Person Location: Middlebury Town Office, or via Zoom

### MINUTES, Approved on September 25, 2023

#### 12:10 Call to Order

Approval of minutes: June minutes, as amended ([June 2023](#)), were unanimously approved. No meeting was held in July.

Attendance today: A. L'Roe, A. Sheldon, C. Tate, C. Harden, M. Anderson

#### Citizen Comments

There will be a Bike-Ped plan meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.

MALT is still looking for Tam Trek volunteers for Sept 17.

#### Old Business

C. Tate is working with Katherine Branch (Cornwall) and Heidi Willis (Salisbury) to plan the Addison County Conservation Commissions' Summit for Saturday, November 4. This multi-CC event will be held in Holly Hall, Bristol from 8:30–12:30. Each commission will present itself – one spokesperson summarizing nuts and bolts information, e.g., about meeting frequency, how many members. The summit will include breakout groups and a keynote presentation by Rep. Amy Sheldon. C. Tate asked whether Middlebury Conservation Commission can help pay for coffee and snacks. A. L'Roe will check into that. Any contributions to the Summit that exceed actual costs will go to RiverWatch.

The Town's land Conservation Fund has approximately \$542,000 (as of the last audit at the end of June 2022). For significant funding requests this year, the commission will need to submit a request to the Selectboard before the end of September. Members recognized that, first, the CC will need to know the process for proposing Conservation Fund projects. A. L'Roe will reach out to D. Sophrin (Asst Town Manager) about this. Would Conservation Fund procedures be similar to those of the Cross Street Fund? It seems appropriate that decisions would involve a town vote.

#### New Business

Two events of interest:

"Seed for the Future" screening and discussion on Sunday, August 27, 12-1:30 at Edgewater Gallery (fundraiser).

The [Land Care Cooperative](#) educational event, *Cooperatively Healing our Watershed Homes* will be on Thursday, November 9th from 6-8 pm- (location TBD on Middlebury College campus). CC members can help get the word out about this event.

### **Old Business: Internal Conservation Plan and Goals**

CC members edited the draft Conservation Goals & Recommendations. Those edits appear in the document: [PROPOSED Conservation Goals & Recommendations](#).

The section "Contiguous Forest Blocks" remains a work in progress. A. Sheldon noted that we will need to check out the original intent of the current zoning for forest, as it may have been intended to include other natural resources, too. Before recommending a change to the current zoning, it will be important to work with the Town to add Forest Blocks to the Town Plan.

At the September meeting, we will discuss/edit the Village Green Space goals and develop an action plan.

L.'Roe adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.

**Next monthly meeting- Monday, September 25, 12:00 pm**