

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, June 8, 2020

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Join by Web <https://middlebury.zoom.us/j/91880153974>

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MINUTES

(Approved at June 29, 2020 meeting)

Present: Jeff Howarth, Amy Sheldon, Judy Wiger-Grohs, Andrew L'Roe, Monica Pryzperhart, Molly Anderson

I. Call to Order (12:01)

II. Public Comments (None)

III. Approval of minutes ([May 18, 2020](#))

M. Anderson moved to approve, A. Sheldon seconded, unanimously approved

IV. Commission member updates

- Draft Creek Road Task Force Letter (Jeff Howarth)

- Plan to request having a Conservation Commission representative on the CR Task Force to help Task Force's commission to evaluate all three alternatives in DeGraf's analysis

- Jeff will finalize draft letter and send to Kathleen Ramsay to give to Selectboard

V. Workshop: Conservation Plan

Members gave updates on structure, information so far.

J. Howarth offered that he can do maps if people identify features.

- (1) Flooding/Floodplains (J. Howarth)- stepped through parts. Discussion of a Relative Elevation Model layer that shows elevation in reference to level of nearest stream/river (instead of sea level) J. Howarth showed a map with rivers, corridors, Fluvial Hazard Areas, Relative Elevation Model - helps show floodplains that are not captured by the ANR river corridor. Also has potential as a predictor of wetland areas. Question: Is it worthwhile to identify specific parcels that may be interesting (problematic, strategic, etc.)? A. Sheldon - may depend on the purpose of the proposed action - May be best to identify parcels at the end of the chapter?
- (2) Ground Water/Aquifers (A. Sheldon). Discussed Aquifer Protection plan - found that 2007 town plan had more specific recommendations (than the 2017). Sheldon made a new folder in the shared drive to start consolidating aquifer information. Question: Do we know if chemicals are still being used by quarrying companies, any monitoring of groundwater? J. Howarth- maybe talk to Pete Ryan (hydrogeology), Ray Coish (retired) from Middlebury College about groundwater monitoring and aquifer mapping. A.Sheldon advocated recommending that the Green Mountain National Forest (USFS) purchase lands already within their acquisition area, especially within the aquifer recharge area. Overall, she likes the structure of the document.
- (3) Surface Waters (Monica Pryzperhart and Molly Anderson). Discussion of content. M. Pryzperhart started by compiling existing info, documenting conflicts, working through strategies. M. Anderson went through the info that she added. M. Pryzperhart works with AC Riverwatch Collaborative and they have monitoring data from specific river reaches but haven't narrowed it to specific parcels. M. Anderson asked about working with Intervale on restoration projects? May have resources to work with willing landowners.
- (4) Wetlands (Andrew L'Roe). Starting with overview of wetland characteristics and values. Doing short descriptions of specific important/named wetlands - M. Anderson asked if he would include those along the Muddy Branch? J. Howarth: may be better to do descriptions of each river reach - with geomorphology, land cover, wetlands, etc.

M. Pryzperhart- may be best to keep it short/sweet/to the point- so readers don't have to wade through, but could link to existing information, and build into the next round of updates.

- (5) General Discussion. J. Howarth asked, Does it make sense to have Goals and Strategies for each section? Or overarching strategies that achieve multiple goals, in a table at end that can keep track of actions/status/updates. M. Pryzperhart- would be good to get feedback, see if it's the right direction. J. Howarth- has a meeting with Jen Murray next week. J. Howarth will save a copy of this document as the static version with today's date. Conservation commission members can look at sections of others and help edit descriptive content. Should also consult with J. Howarth about putting together maps.

VI. Set Next Agenda & Meeting Date

Next meeting: **29 June, 12pm-1:30**

Motion to adjourn: A. L'Roe, Second: A. Sheldon, unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 1:30