

Town of Middlebury Conservation Commission
Rotary Small Meeting Room, First Floor
77 Main Street, Municipal Offices
Minutes of August 20, 2018

Draft

Members Present: Monica Przyperhart, Judy Wiger-Grohs, Andrew L’Roe, Molly Anderson

Members Absent: Jeff Howarth, Amy Sheldon, Kemi Fuentes-George

Staff Present: Jennifer Murray

Others Present:

1. Call to Order: Meeting began 4:05 pm.

2. Minutes:

Minutes from 5/21 were tabled again, until Amy can attend once again; not enough members from that meeting present to approve minutes.

On a motion by Molly, 2nd by Andrew, the Conservation Commission approved the minutes from 7/16/18 as presented.

3. Member updates:

Monica announced the conservation commission conference in Poultney, VT on 9/29/18. If people decide to go, she encouraged them to use the conference to learn about topics relevant to our work plan. If members are interested, let Jen or Monica know and the Town may be able to cover the fee.

Continue discussion next time, about the role of the conservation commission on current/emerging environmental issues.

The group spoke a bit about the bear talk conducted a couple weeks ago. It was very well attended and the Conservation Commission might want to do a bear talk of their own in the Spring.

4. Discussion about Walks & Talks Series:

July event: Molly and Judy provided an overview of the July walk, “Shirts and Shortcakes”, which took place 5-6pm Tues 7/24. It was sparsely attended, very hot with threat of thunderstorms, but a nice event overall. The shirts and artwork created was great, and bring-your-own bowls was a great message. Jamie was a great partner and everyone enjoyed working with her.

August event: Kemi offered to followed up with Amy and it does not seem like this event will be able to happen. No event for August. Following up on the fallback plan to work with the tree committee to do a simple walking tour of trees in downtown, including tree identification and discussion of emerald ash borer, Chris Zeoli would be able to do something the first week of September.

40 September event: Andrew and Jeff are still doing their event at the end of September, taking
41 place on Chipman Hill. Thinks they will try to focus in on some of the viewshed questions and
42 show what can be done with imagery. They can test out some questions with participants.
43 Monica suggests they reference how strenuous the hike is, in their poster. There may be
44 some pictures at restaurants around town, and UVM archives landscape change program.

45 October: There is a possibility that Amy and Warren King will still want to do an oak walk in
46 October.

47 Monica is going to follow up with Kemi about these events and preparation of posters.

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49 **5. Discussion about Community Values Mapping:**

50 Monica thinks one primary question to be asked is who is digitizing the data. If we stray too
51 far from the ANR model, she may not be able to do it herself. Is there another option?

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53 The committee generally discussed the event. Molly asked Monica to explain some of the
54 differences. She explained and also thinks multiple meetings are okay, several locations are
55 okay, but the main question needs to remain what we love about our town... and basic
56 outlines of areas. 6-8 people per table is optimal.

57

58 Andrew says that it makes sense to follow the ANR model and refine it in future years. Molly
59 agrees it makes sense to keep it simple for now, with just a few meeting locations, then see
60 what people make of it. Maybe we should have an event in Town and one in East
61 Middlebury, then see if we need more. The commission talked about how to invite
62 participants of all ages and all socioeconomic levels, including retirement communities.
63 Andrew recommends inviting all those groups to a flexible space, and being ready for a
64 crowd.

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66 Next meeting: Narrow down a date and locations for the main events, and future events.

67 Next meeting: Add agenda item to review the Tree Committee's draft tree policy

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69 **6. Adjournment:** Adjourn at 5:30 PM, meeting concluded.

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72 Submitted by: Jennifer Murray