

Town of Middlebury Conservation Commission
Rotary Small Meeting Room, First Floor
77 Main Street, Municipal Offices
Minutes of May 21, 2018
Approved 10/15/2018

Members Present: Monica Przyperhart, Judy Wiger-Grohs, Andrew L’Roe, Amy Sheldon

Members Absent: Kemi Fuentes-George, Molly Anderson, Jeff Howarth

Staff Present: Jennifer Murray

Others Present: none

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7 **1. Call to Order:** Meeting began 4:00 pm.

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9 **2. Public Comment:** None

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11 **3. Minutes:**

12 On a motion by Andrew, 2nd by Judy, the MCC voted to approve the minutes of 4/16/18
13 Motion passed, 4-0.

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15 **4. Organizational Items:**

16 Jen volunteered take minutes this meeting. Seemed to be some consensus that if staff
17 continued to take minutes going forward, members could more fully participate in the
18 discussion. Monica distributes directory of members of other conservation commissions in
19 Addison County, which she put together after a recent gathering. Judy started a discussion of
20 whether the Conservation commission wants to regularly run something in the paper,
21 including possible cost. Amy suggested that the paper may run opinion/info pieces for free
22 on occasion as those topics come up.

23
24 **5. Discussion about Walks & Talks Series:**

25 Monica facilitated the discussion about the Walks and Talks Series, and said even though
26 Kemi cannot attend he is interested in working with the outreach effort.

27
28 Looking at 1 talk/month for 4 months. Monica started by asking the group about their goals
29 and how they think this may fit into the work the group is doing. The group came up with
30 several goals:

- 31 ▪ Let people know we’re here
- 32 ▪ Educate them
- 33 ▪ Learn things from attending community members
- 34 ▪ Showcase community resources
- 35 ▪ Getting to know resources, getting the community to know resources
- 36 ▪ Learning from them, they’re learning from us

37
38 Andrew/Jeff said he and Jeff could co-lead a walk on Chipman Hill. This might include an
39 invitation to share stories, a historical component, and different (visual) views of Middlebury.

40
41 The group brainstormed several additional ideas for topics, including:

- 42 ▪ Naturalist-led walk geared toward kids and families

- 43 ▪ Wright Park
- 44 ▪ Habitat management/early successional habitat (feat. Mark L. from Audubon VT or other)
- 45 ▪ Winter wildlife tracking
- 46 ▪ Bobcat program presentation
- 47 ▪ Inviting a forester to discuss land management strategies with property owners
- 48 ▪ Wildlife corridors
- 49 ▪ Monarch butterflies and milkweed
- 50 ▪ Topics that could be combined on farmland- ex. bird habitat/songbirds, Audubon
- 51 ▪ Oak walk (Amy, feat. Warren & Barry King)
- 52 ▪ Wildflower walk
- 53 ▪ Paddle trip talking about river resources (feat. Addison Co. River Watch)
- 54 ▪ Soil Resources
- 55 ▪ Emerald Ash borer
- 56 ▪ Various guest speakers
- 57 ▪ Various other wildlife topics

58
59 It was suggested that topics could be matched to what we plan to work on in the coming
60 year. Monica spoke with Jamie Montague (MALT) and even though there are other similar
61 activities happening in Town, MALT isn't worried about overlap if we can choose dates that
62 work for all. Judy points out that amphibians and turtles are starting to move now, and
63 suggests an amphibian walk in October.

- 64
65 The group settled on the following preliminary topics for the series:
- 66 ▪ June: Wildlife topic with guest speaker (Monica)
 - 67 ▪ July: Naturalist-led nature walk geared toward kids (Judy and Jen/Molly)
 - 68 ▪ August: Oak walk or other forest-themed topic w/ guest speaker (Amy)
 - 69 ▪ September: Chipman Hill walk (Andrew & Jeff)

70
71 Jen suggested some sort of consistent branding or logo that they could use for the whole
72 series and carry forward to community values mapping. The group briefly discussed getting
73 the help of a graphic designer, but Jen is going to try to draft something first. Monica will
74 follow up with Kemi to design the poster.

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76 Monica and Amy will not be available on 6/18

77
78 **6. Adjournment:** Adjourn at 5:20 PM, meeting concluded.

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81
82 Submitted by: Jennifer Murray