

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Rotary Small Meeting Room, First Floor

Municipal Office Building

77 Main Street, Middlebury

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

4:30 – 6:00 PM

	<p><b>Present:</b> Judy Wiger-Grohs, Molly Anderson, Kemi Fuentes-George, Jeff Howarth, Andrew L’Roe, Monica Przyperhart <b>Absent:</b> Amy Sheldon, Jennifer Murray <b>Guests:</b> Jamie Montague, Caleb Basa, Helen Batchan <b>Minutes:</b> Jeff Howarth</p>
4:40	<p><b>Introductions</b> Commission members introduce ourselves to guests and vice-versa.</p>
	<p><b>Approval of minutes</b> Minutes from January 21, 2019 approved.</p>
4:45	<p><b>Commission member updates</b> Jeff – will be offering a new course at college in Fall 2019 called Conservation Planning with GIS Monica – Arrowhead LLC has a small contract with town to do some inventory work, could intersect with class Andrew – shares Arrowhead contract that is on town website Jamie M – suggests that Cornwall could make a good comparison town given the extensive natural resource inventory undertaken there and active Conservation Commission.</p> <p><i>Agreement: we need more information about the scope of the natural resource inventory by Arrowhead from Jennifer</i></p>
4:55	<p><b>Update on Otter Creek Wetlands</b></p> <p>Andrew reviews reclassification projection. Indicates that Regional Planning Commission will assist but will not take the lead on this project. The working group that started this project is still strategizing and thinking about working with units of the wetlands rather than the entire thing. There are some efforts to figure out who the landowners are in the area that might be affected by the project. Middlebury CC needs to decide whether this is something we want to become involved in.</p> <p>Monica interested in helping getting in touch with landowners (outreach), but would like us to discuss and evaluate the amount of effort and potential pushback this project might generate balanced by the potential gains from a larger buffer. Molly would like more clarity on the potential benefits. Monica – if Cornwall and Salisbury working on this, could be worth contributing. Jamie asks how this relates to larger Lake Champlain project. Andrew – seems mostly about structural side and less working with agricultural practices, because ag land is grandfathered in. Monica – not practiced based, it’s permit-based – comes into play when someone asks for a permit to clear or build. Some discussion about the value of Midd CC members continuing to participate in meetings</p>

about the project. Andrew – yes, good to be there – we get flood protection from wetland and shouldn't take that for granted from our upstream neighbors. Kemi asks if there are signs of contention at these meetings.

*Agreement – Andrew and Monica keep going to meetings and report back; a sub-committee should develop outreach plan for individuals who may be affected by the project; we need updates on proposals for Creek Road improvements.*

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5:20	<b>Water Quality Chat</b>  Two options: 4/14 Sunday, 4/15 Monday (5-7pm). Opinions were not strong about one or the other.  <i>Agreement: Monica will make executive decision on the time, based in part on availability of room.</i>
5:25	<b>Town Meeting Poster</b>  Jeff – will make a map of Middlebury Monica – will write the MCC blurb Kemi – will put together the poster Jeff and Kemi – will figure out how to print it and bring it to the meeting
5:30	<b>Community Values Mapping</b>  Discuss outreach plan. Based on FPF add, Addy Independent wants to cover the Midd event. Judy asks if we can put it on the Town Calendar. Molly will explore if we can put it on the events calendar for college.  We then did a practice run and asked questions about the logistics of running the community values mapping sessions.
5:50	<b>Other Business</b>  We'd like to get a few things on the next agenda: Amy – Act 250 Kathleen – Conservation Fund MALT – collaboration on summer activities Jenn – more details about Arrowhead inventory
5:55	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>