

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Rotary Small Meeting Room, First Floor
Alternative Location- Planning Office, Second Floor
Municipal Office Building
77 Main Street, Middlebury

Monday, JUNE 24, 2019
4:30 – 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Monica Przyperhart, Jeff Howarth, Judy Wiger-Grohs, Andrew L'Roe

Absent: Kemi Fuentes-George, Molly Anderson, Amy Sheldon

Minutes: Andrew L'Roe

I. Call to Order (4:30)

II. Approval of minutes

Reviewed Field visit notes from 6/ , added Judy Wiger-Grohs's name to attendees
Approved as corrected (Jeff Howarth motioned, Judy Wiger-Grohs Seconded, vote unanimous)

Discussed May 2019 meeting minutes (not enough attendees to approve)

Request to clarify that the "end product they want" meant the Town of Middlebury wants

Request to clarify, "comprehensive" meaning the Town Plan and By-laws

III. Commission member updates

Monica Przyperhart- Community Values Mapping digitization in process, taking a while because lots of different values were reported, should be done in June.

Jeff Howarth- suggested that a series of talks/presentations/conversations on Values and other projects would be good to get feedback, show community what we're working on

Andrew L'Roe- had recent visit to Ducks Unlimited wetlands restoration project on 3 Mile Bridge Road- met with Patrick Raney from DU and Marc Lapin to see tree plantings, native species and hydrology restoration, learned about mitigation credits within the Otter Creek watershed.

Judy: Emerald Ash Border (EAB) discovered in Bristol, suggested that commission work with Tree Committee to organize a meeting and put together a native tree list for people wanting to replace Ash trees. There is a public meeting on July 23rd in Bristol. There is educational information on the town of Middlebury website (http://www.townofmiddlebury.org/town_departments_services_staff/middlebury_parks_and_recreation_department/emerald_ash_borer_information.php)

IV. Ongoing Business:

Otter Creek Wetlands Potential Reclassification

Update on regional group's status

Discussion: Determine next steps

A steering group with a couple members from each of the active town Conservation Commissions (Cornwall, Salisbury, sometimes Leicester and Brandon, Andrew representing Middlebury) has been meeting biweekly in advance of public "conversation" meetings in Cornwall and Salisbury- June 25th and 27th, 6:30pm.

Monica and Andrew agreed that they would both try to attend the next meeting (July 11th from 1-3pm at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Office) and push for more defined characteristics of Class I wetlands to be so that the towns are proposing approximately similar areas. It needs to be a coordinated effort proposing similarly qualified "exceptional or irreplaceable" areas- otherwise, the reclassification effort may not be worth pursuing.

V. Election of Officers

Discussion having co-chairs to make sure all duties get covered-

Jeff Howarth nominated as Chair (Judy motioned, Andrew seconded)

Andrew L'Roe nominated as vice-chair (Judy motioned, Jeff seconded)

New officers unanimously approved by all in attendance.

VI. Begin Work Plan for the year

Discussion of projects in upcoming year- several projects already started:

Community Values Mapping

Wetlands reclassification

Forest Fragmentation and Wildlife Corridor information for Town Plan section

Generally want to be providing evidence for conservation decisions to help town officials and citizens find existing resources and information put together by Conservation Commission- Andrew volunteered to do research on websites and information provided by other town Conservation Commissions.

VII. Set Next Agenda & Meeting Date

Jeff will send out a Doodle poll for the next date- Mondays in July and August.

6:30- Judy made motion to adjourn, Jeff H. seconded.