

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2023

Supervisors: Andrew Mintz, Julie Weiss, Liz Austin, Kathie Becker. Also present was Andrea Grossman, the District Administrator.

Partners: Bob Purcell

Volunteers: Liz McGuire, Dick Gelpke, Grisha Maziya

Guests: Margaret Delano

Quorum: Kathie Becker opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Minutes: Julie motioned to approve the minutes from the January Board meeting as corrected; Kathie seconded this motion, and all were in favor. Andrea will download the minutes, remove the executive session, convert them to a PDF file, and upload it to the Middlesex Conservation District (MCD) website.

District Conservationist Report: Bob reported that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a new hire, Olivia Schrantz, a transfer from Vermont, who will be starting on Monday, March 21st, 2023, as a Soil Conservationist. Bob also stated that a pathways intern, Michael Grega, who majored in Dairy Management from the University of Vermont (UVM) will likely begin May 21st. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding just came out to NRCS two to three weeks ago.

With the first official batch of IRA money, they got \$1.2 million more in their equipment funding and \$500,000 in their Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding; they will then open another round of funding for CSP. Between our last meeting and now, Bob stated they had their first round of selections under equipment and the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program. For Middlesex County, there was a project under their AMA for an irrigation project at Littleton Community Farm. Under the IRA funding, NRCS funded an energy project at Copp and Sons in Littleton.

Shaw Dairy Farm: A barn collapsed at the Shaw Dairy farm from the Nor'easter and is expediting NRCS's project with them. NRCS was working with them to change their system from a solid to a liquid manure system. Julie spoke about Andy working with Shaw to help reconstruct their barn with one of our grants. Grisha, Julie, and Bob talked about spreading the manure on the farm, and a composting opportunity for the farm. There may be money from the manure grant for an external engineer to help design the liquid manure system.

Treasurer's Report: Kathie said there wasn't a report. Andrea stated that Kathie, Andrew, and she will go to the bank on Thursday to get Andrea into the system. Andrew is okay with letting Kathie and Andrea access the online banking. Kathie stated that MCD needs hard copies of some of the transactions and will get a MCD debit card. There was a discussion on the need for a subscription to Quicken.

Grant Spending: Kathie stated that MCD would know more about the grant spending after the books are up to date.

April BOS meeting Date: Andrea will find out from Maynard's town clerk's office if Zoom can still hold public meetings. The April Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting was pushed to April 24th due to the Massachusetts state holiday. Kathie made a motion to approve the April 24th meeting date. Julie seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Annual Meeting: We are looking into what the legal requirements are for holding annual meetings and elections. We are also pursuing ideas on how to recruit people. Kathie asked Liz McGuire, Grisha, and Dick if they were interested in becoming supervisors, but they said no. Kathie talked about getting ideas on recruiting people to become supervisors and attracting people such as photographers. Grisha stated that Andrea had made an Instagram account, hopefully drawing more members to MCD.

Workshop Ideas: Andrea shared several ideas about workshops. Those ideas were received well by the board of supervisors.

Compost Workshop(s): Grisha discussed what he would talk about in the compost workshop. Grisha and Andrea discussed doing the workshop before mid-June and posting about it on both the website and social media. Liz McGuire suggested having two workshops where one would be at Grisha's site, and the other would be a tour of composting locations of larger farms. Julie suggested we should consider emailing plant sale buyers to see if they want to subscribe to specific topics.

Potential Workshops: Andrea introduced her ideas about potential workshops. The link to the workshops is [here](#).

Social Media Ideas: Andrea worked on several approaches for social media which are posted [here](#). She suggested it would be a great idea to have a photographer as a supervisor for the district so that MCD can use its photos instead of online ones.

Website Updates: Andrea made edits to the MCD website including updating agendas and minutes to PDFs. She said Scott Lewis would make the agendas and minutes into accordion style by year. Andrea shared her ideas for MCD website updates and can be found [here](#). Julie stated that Susan had a lot of information and items to put onto the MCD website and are on the NRCS server.

Budget: Kathie stated we don't have a budget but will be putting one together soon. It will come out from doing work on MCD's books.

Status District Activities

Banking and credit card: Kathie said these would be handled by Thursday.

State Commission Meeting: Kathie asked if one is coming up, but Julie has not received any information. Julie will email MCD with any updates.

Long-Range Plan Distribution: Kathie said we would distribute it once it is collated and put together.

2023 Calendar- Meeting Dates: Kathie thought MCD already had that. Andrea stated that MCD does have that and wanted to know if we needed to discuss it again.

New Business: Dick stated that he, Liz McGuire, and Dave Williams have been working on a celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the district. Dick will send Andrea the draft of the anniversary presentation and thought that he, Liz, Andrea, and Dave should meet in the summer to discuss the presentation. Liz McGuire said we must see where the anniversary's focus will go and suggested having the annual meeting in the fall as a deadline for MCD. She also proposed having a link on the MCD website for the presentation if anyone wants more information about the district's history. Andrea, Kathie, Liz McGuire, and Julie discussed having the event in person, where to hold it, and if grant money can be used for that kind of event. Dick suggested recording the event on Zoom and posting the video to the website.

Upcoming Events: There were no upcoming events to discuss.

Julie made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Andrew seconded, and all were in favor.

Minutes noted and respectfully submitted,

Andrea Grossman

District Administrator