

**Board of Supervisors
Albert J Sargent Memorial Library
Boxborough, MA
FINAL Annual Meeting and 75th Anniversary Minutes
July 17, 2023**

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

Supervisors Candidates: Margaret Delano, Andrew Sammarco, Miri Becker, and Amelia Bronder-Giroux

Partners: Bob Purcell, Tom Anderson

Volunteers: Liz McGuire, Dick Gelpke, Dave Williams

Guests: Jamie Eldridge and residents of Middlesex County

Welcome Guests: Kathie welcomed everyone to the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Meeting.

Greeting and District Report: Kathie greeted everyone and read the district report. The district report can be found below.

Report of Nominating Committee: Liz Austin announced the supervisor candidates: Margaret Delano, Andrew Sammarco, Miri Becker, and Amelia Bronder-Giroux.

Election of Supervisors: Liz asked if there are any other nominations on the floor for other supervisors. Kathie nominated Liz Austin to continue being a supervisor of the district. Kathie explained who can vote for supervisors. All residents and land users of Middlesex County present at the meeting voted in favor of Margaret, Andrew, Miri, Liz, and Amelia.

Oath of Office: Tom introduced himself and had Amelia, Andrew, Margaret, Miri, and Liz Austin swear in.

Certificates: Jamie Eldridge introduced himself and read aloud his certificate as well as Lori Trahan's certificate to the Middlesex Conservation District.

District Conservationist Report: Bob introduced himself to the audience and congratulated Andrea on getting her access to the office and laptop. He also spoke about how NRCS has helped farmers, private landowners, and foresters in Middlesex County this past year.

Featured Speaker: Dick Gelpke spoke about what conservation districts are, the Middlesex Conservation District's board, history, mission, and programs. He also spoke about land use changes over the past 200 years in Massachusetts and 75 years in Middlesex County. He also specifically talked about Ashby's, Concord's, Framingham's, and Natick's land use changes. The presentation can be found.

Minutes noted and respectfully submitted,

Andrea Grossman

District Administrator

Financial 2022 Report was available at the Annual Meeting

Documents Attached Below:

Highlights of the District



Middlesex Conservation Districts
319 Littleton Road, Suite 205
Westford, MA 01886

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2022 July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Middlesex Conservation District had a productive, interesting and challenging fiscal year 2022. We faced the challenge of continuing to operate while the world was in lockdown due to COVID. This affected most of our activities.

- We developed the Long Range Plan that includes the history of soil and water use in Middlesex County, and work that we have done for the past 75 years. We have a few copies here tonight if you would like to read it Thank you to everyone who worked on the Long Range Plan. A special thank you to Patrick Hearn who spearheaded creating the Plan.
- The district put on several workshops, including a soils and no-till equipment demo with Farmer Dave and NRCS, a People-Plant-Pollinator Solution Workshop with Dr. Gegear of Umass Dartmouth, Grow Your Own Mushrooms Workshop with Fat Moon Mushrooms, and a Wild Edible Plant Ramble with Russ Cohen. We thank you, Farmer Dave, NRCS, Russ, the Acton Arboretum, Dr. Gegear, and Fat Moon Mushrooms.
- We used Zoom for workshops and board meetings. A lot more people were able to participate in our workshops, including some international attendees. At least one workshop had over 100 registrations.
- We went live with our new website in January 2022, thanks to Scott Lewis, our webmaster. Susan Thomas worked hard with Scott to refine the website's functionality and she also helped with troubleshooting,
- Our Spring Plant Sale in 2022 was a success, and in part we provided native plants that would feed our customers and their landscapes for years to come. We thank our many volunteers who helped out, including Nate Eckman, who used some of his natives for his trail restoration project at Hopkinton Land Trust. We donated remaining food plants to Boston Area Gleaners.



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- We continued our Stable Waste Pilot project. Susan visited farms such as the Good Pickin' Farm, discussing manure management for their livestock, horses, and farm waste. We also worked with Woods End Lab and Grisha Maziya of Shady Corner Farm to do compost testing. Thank you, Grisha and Woods End Lab!
- Dick Gelpke, Liz McGuire, and Dave Williams started work on our 75th year celebration, part of which is being presented tonight.
- Sue Thomas was our District Administrator. Carolyn Wirth was our Plant Sale Coordinator, We are very thankful for the help of each of them.
- We had much attrition by the end of FY2022. Some people moved away for better opportunities elsewhere or found better opportunities in the area. We wish the best to all of them, and thank them for all their efforts with MCD.
- We wish to give Susan Thomas a special thank you for all her hard work
- Our financial details are here tonight, but the formal presentation is still at the auditor. When the financial review is ready, we will make it available to anyone who needs it, such as our state officials, or others who wants see it.
- Moving forward, we now have a new district administrator, Andrea Grossman. She joined us in January 2023, bring a lot of energy to our organization. As there has been a pause in plant sales, the district is taking the present time to reconfigure our sales to better support district goals. We will focus plants to help local pollinators and to otherwise help our area deal with climate change.
- Tonight we have four presently nominated candidates for positions on the Board of Supervisors. In addition, we will entertain nominations from the floor.