



Middlesex Conservation District

319 Littleton Road, Suite 205
Westford, MA 01886
(978) 303-8272

**FINAL Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Meeting in 2nd Floor Conference Room at
319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886 and Zoom
October 16, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Supervisors present: Liz Austin, Kathie Becker, Margaret Delano, Miri Becker (arrived 7:20 PM)

Supervisors not present: Andrew Sammarco

Others present: Andrea Grossman (District Administrator), Dick Gelpke

Quorum: Kathie Becker, Chair, established quorum. Meeting started at 7:03 PM.

Approval of Previous Minutes from August 21st and 28th

- Liz and Kathie will review the previous minutes from before Andrea was the district administrator. We will be waiting to do the September minutes at the November meeting.

District Administrator Report

- Minutes from early FY 23: Will be reviewed
- Workshops & SVT: Andrea has been in contact with a number of willing speakers.
 - Harvey Leonard, Chief Meteorologist Emeritus on channel WCVB (Jan/Feb)
 - SVT/Laura Mattei, Director of Conservation, would partner with us on some workshops on pollinators & invasive plants. They have widespread participation in their events.
 - Ambarish Karmalkar, an assistant professor at URI is also interested in doing a presentation on climate change in general, regional implications for New England, and impacts on ecology and hydrology. As a climatologist, his emphasis in such presentations is generally on mechanisms and reasons behind regional climatic changes.
 - Liz McGuire (contact) - foraging walk @ Clark Farm in Carlisle or perhaps another location, hosted by Emily Carvalho (May?)
- Recruiting more Supervisors - working on advertising. Would like to get one or two more supervisors before the Annual meeting Dec 4th.

District Conservationist Report from Bob Purcell

No obligations since August. Synopsis on fiscal year. They were able to fund contracts. 18 of the contracts in Middlesex County. Other programs had four projects total including one with



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wildlife habitat. Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) (drought 2022) - Bob did ECP visits and returned to the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). No FSA funds so they aren't able to work on any projects. New hire is almost ready and has done fingerprints. Bob is hopeful the individuals will start in November or December. Student pathways post is for Holden (Worcester county) and Westford offices (Middlesex county). Michael will be returning as a pathways intern but they also have another pathways internship open for three weeks. Program applications coming up in the next few months.

Kathie asked Bob if he's heard about jumping worms. Bob hasn't had anyone ask about them. She also asked about ideas for workshops and outreach. Bob is willing to work with us with outreach such as the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (climate change and related practices (grazing, carbon sequestration, etc.)).

Dick had a question about what the student pathways program person would be doing. Bob described some of the responsibilities of the internship. Bob also stated that a freshman or sophomore would be preferable for the position since Juniors don't have enough time to do two summers of an internship.

Treasurer's Report/Status of Financial Reviews 2022

- CPA asked for summaries from Paypal & Stripe. Andrea sent those over. No update since.
- Andrea is working on the FY 2023 paperwork which is due end of November. CPA is aware that we want to get that paperwork turned in ASAP.
- Discussion about whether & when to start looking for a new CPA. Lisa Trotto of Worcester CD might have a lead on a reliable & experienced one. Our CPA has been out sick for 3 weeks so she has not been able to get work done.
- Andrea, Kathie, & Miri will go to the CPA's office in the next week to meet in person.

Status Training for Supervisors

- Conflict of Interest training to be held by the state in late November. Need to make an account but as we're not state/municipal employees, it is more complicated for us.
- Supervisor training is ongoing.
- Open Meeting Law trainings can be found on MA state website and happens fairly frequently. All Supervisors must complete it every 3 years.

Voting on Supervisor Positions

- Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer. Waiting until Andrew can be present as he was part of



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the team addressing this.

Workshops

- Coordinate with SVT on pollinators/invasives. Andrea has been in touch with them.

FY 2023 Annual Meeting

- Location: Westford Library, ground floor meeting room.
- Date: Dec 4th, 6 pm
- Speaker: Ellen Mecray from the Nat'l Weather Service on climate change impacts on the Northeast. She will need to speak to us over Zoom because she lives too far.
- Does she have a fee? We can't offer her much but we are able to provide a small fee.

Plant Sale

- Andrea has done a ton of research on local, native pollinator plants. We will only be doing a limited number of plants.
- Only doing seeds, not seedlings so ordering is not as stressful. Will buy bulk & separate out.
- Separate into categories: Shady, wet, dry, etc. to appeal to the most people.
- Are we selling non-plant items? Like planter bags/planter bag patterns? Kathie is looking into it.

SuAsCo CISMA Contact Person

- Will wait until the next meeting to confirm.
- Will try to do a quick update on their activities at the next meeting.

Other Topics

- MA Assoc. of Conservation Districts (MACD) annual meeting Nov 20th. - see email for details.
- Liz Austin motioned to approve July + August Financial reports.
 - Miri seconded
 - All approved

Liz Austin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Miri Becker seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Meeting Minutes drafted and submitted by Miri Becker & Andrea Grossman.