



Middlesex Conservation District

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

**Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Meeting in 2nd Floor Conference Room at
319 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886 and Zoom
November 20, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Supervisors present: Liz Austin, Miri Becker, Margaret Delano, Kathie Becker

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

Welcome and establish quorum by Kathie Becker at 7:09 PM

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Liz motioned to accept September minutes. Miri seconded. All passed.
- Liz motioned to accept October minutes. Margaret seconded. All approved.

District Administrator Report

- Andrew Sammarco resigned from the Board.
- Discussion regarding if Board members can only work in the county, not reside, in relation to our search for additional Board members. Will call to confirm.
- Website domain is up to be renewed in January. The new cost to maintain it will be \$11.66/year.
- CPA update: our previous CPA resigned so we need a new one. Called Lisa Trotto and she suggested a new CPA she works with. That will be our new CPA.
- Workshops: Clark farms willing to host a foraging workshop with Emily Carvalho. Possibly spring and summer. Harvey Leonard (meteorologist) willing to do a workshop in January. Ambarish Karmalkar climate change presentation, regional effects of Climate Change. Spring.

District Conservationist Report

- Bob not present

Treasurer's Report

- 3 unpaid insurance bills that will be paid ASAP.
- Things are getting paid up and becoming clearer.
- Liz Ausin motioned to accept the report. Miri Becker seconded. All approve.

Status of Financial Reviews

- FY 2022 Compilation Completed
- New CPA will be working on the FY 2023 review.
- Status of FY 2023 Financial Review: should be completed by the end of November.

Board Approval Question for spending money over certain dollar amount

- Is there an amount that Andrea can just write?
- Liz motioned to accept that anything below \$200 is considered “petty cash”. Miri Becker seconded. All approve.

Statewide Local Working Group

- Austin Miles is Farm Bill Outreach Coordinator for the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts (MACD).
- What is the Statewide Local Working Group (SLWG)? Opportunity for Stakeholders on the ground to provide input on what natural resource issues are most important and how we should address them. Provides recommendations to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to create priorities and allocate funding.
- Discussion of the Results of the SLWG Report
 - See report for full details. Report will be on the MCD website.
 - Natural Resource concerns are considered to be statewide if three regional breakout groups mentioned it.
 - Plant pest pressures: Invasive plants, deer overpopulation
 - Plant productivity & health: Forest health, climate adaptation, droughts require additional irrigation.
 - Human considerations: Access to land, small scale parcels (conservation practices scaled for small scale practices, outreach for scattered small parcels)
 - Recommendations: Outreach to landowners/managers on invasives. Outreach to producers on NRCS’s small-scale payment scenarios
 - Next steps: District Survey to get county-specific input to inform regional and statewide efforts. 2024 Statewide Local Working Group
- Discussion on outreach for the SLWG Survey
 - Andrea has sent it out to various groups already with 39 responses.
 - Andrea will send the supervisors the link to review the responses.
 - Is Middlesex County similar to other conservation districts? There are Regional differences but similar themes throughout.

MCD Local Working Group Report from 2011

- Couldn’t find the report so no update. If we find it, we will circle back.

Status Training for Supervisors

- Will send out a summary email to Supervisors with what needs to be done.

Workshops

- Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) Pollinator Presentation Status. They will let us know by the end of November what their timeline is like. Maybe February?
- Foraging workshops with Emily Carvalho in early summer, and possibly multiple times in the year.
- Project WET - designed for teachers but useful for broader audiences as well. They do workshops on Zoom. Metropolitan District Commission might want to sponsor? The Metropolitan District Commission changed its name to Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. We could reach out to local schools to invite teachers and/or students. Invite other conservation districts.
- Native Plant Trust - locally relevant workshops. Can we collaborate with them? March?
- Harvey Leonard Presentation on Climate Change Status. Maybe Jan? Need to confirm the fee.
- Ambarish Karmalkar Presentation on Regional Effects from Climate Change Status
- Mushroom growing workshops. Andrew Mintz (logs) & Fat Moon Mushrooms (bags). May? Tour of facilities?
- Small-scale / micro-scale food growing. Workshops for apartment dwellers. March/April?

FY 23 Annual Meeting

- December 4 @ JV Fletcher library

Spring 2024 Plant Sale Discussion

- Purchasing Locations and Plant Species
- Volunteer Bagging Seeds
 - Where to bag them up? Need space to store them.

Other Topics

- None

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

Important Dates:

Annual Meeting: December 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM, at the J.V. Fletcher Library on the ground floor meeting room at 50 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886

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