



Middlesex Conservation District

319 Littleton Road, Suite 205

Westford, MA 01886

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Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

J.V. Fletcher Library & Zoom

50 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886

Monday, December 4, 2023 6:00 PM

Supervisors present: Elizabeth Austin, Kathie Becker, Miri Becker

Others present: Jamie Eldridge (State Senator for the 37th district), Julie Weiss (former Supervisor), Emilie Brush (Tyngsboro Conservation Director), Patrick Herman (farmer & former Supervisor), Dick Gelpke (former Supervisor), Liza Bemis (Hutchins Farm), Brita Dempsey (MA Envirothon Director), Ellen Mecray (NOAA), Sue Thomas, Gerry DiBello (resident), Bob Purcell (NRCS), and two other residents.

Welcome Guests, establish quorum and bring meeting to order - 6:07 PM

Greeting and District Report – District Chair, Kathie Becker

- This year we hired Andrea Grossman as the District Administrator.
- We hired a new CPA.
- We have a couple of workshops coming up, including Harvey Leonard on January 23rd at 3pm at the First Parish Church United, Westford, MA.
- We are working on a seed sale that will begin probably at the end of January.

Report of Nominating Committee – District Vice Chair, Elizabeth Austin

- Kathie Becker was nominated.
- Liz Austin motioned to vote on nomination, Miri Becker seconded, all present approved.
- Tom Anderson (Executive Secretary, State Commission on Soil, Water and Related Resources) usually does the swearing in but was not present, so Kathie will have to be sworn in at a later date.

District Conservationist Report – Robert Purcell, District Conservationist

- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provided a lot of funds, about \$9 million, that is just waiting for payment schedules to be finalized before that money can be spent on conservation projects.
- There is a new hire that has not onboarded yet because headquarters is behind schedule. Many NRCS offices are hiring right now due to incoming IRA funds.
- The office Secretary in Holden is retiring so one of the staff in the Westford office, Ashley, will be transferred to Holden where the majority of the projects are. Ashley's position will be backfilled.
- Completing interviews for the student pathways position.
- There are some unfunded agreements that need to be re-upped with MCD. These need to

be addressed at the next meeting.

FY 2023 Annual Financial Report - Kathie Becker

- We are financially up to date, all the backlog of the past year has been taken care of.
- See attached financial report
- Liz Austin motions to approve the financial report. Miri Becker seconded. All approve.

Vote on Plant Sale Budget, Honorarium for Ellen Mecray, and Honorarium for Harvey Leonard - Middlesex Conservation District Supervisors

- Decision was made to move this discussion to a subsequent meeting.

Annual Meeting Presentation

Featured Speaker – Ellen Mecray, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Director for the Eastern Region, will be giving a presentation on NOAA Climate Science, Regional Climate Services, and findings from the U.S. National Climate Assessment.

Miri Becker motioned to conclude the meeting, Liz Austin seconded, all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Meeting minutes prepared and submitted by Miri Becker