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**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  
April 29, 2024  
7:00 PM**

Supervisors present: Miri Becker, Kathie Becker, Margaret Delano

Others present: Andrea Grossman, Robert Purcell, Dick Gelpke

Welcome and establish quorum. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Approval of Previous Minutes

- February 26, 2024
- March 11, 2024
- Need to wait until we have a quorum.

District Administrator Report - Andrea Grossman

- Basic grant about \$9,000, Kathie and Andrea need to sign some documents.
- Looking into getting a webinar feature of Zoom for future presentations. At least \$690 per year. Other organizations like Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) use this.
  - Goal is to look more professional,
  - Have more control over what happens in our online events.
- Quarterly reports will be submitted.
- Presentation turnout results. Summary: a lot more people register than come to an event and just want the recording afterward. Point them to our YouTube channel.
- Contact form submission from Consumer Notice - want us to put their information about pollinators/pesticides on our website.
- 2024 RCPP grant applicant outreach webinar, May 30th.

District Conservationist Report - Robert Purcell

- Conducting interviews for the Management Program Analyst position. Waiting to decide.
- Made selections last week for EQIP & CSP programs, around twenty-five applications in Middlesex, including low tunnels, irrigation & mulching. Now need to get them to pre-approved, then get signatures.
- \$3.4 million selected for EQIP applications across the state.

- Student Pathways intern will be returning in a few weeks and a second intern in Westford and a third in Holden. Pathways is a program for students to learn about the soil conservationist role and if they complete the education and hours worked requirement, they are guaranteed a soil conservationist position.
- Education outreach event in Forestry through NRCS - Bob's supervisor will talk to NRCS's forestry guy.
- Austin Miles sent out Local Working Group results, but has not reviewed them yet.

### Treasurer's Report

- Need to clean up the aesthetics/wording on the reports but have straightened out where the numbers come from to make it more consistent.
- Quarter Reports (Q1, Q2, Q3)

### Healthy Soils Challenge Grant Update

- No update

### Board Votes on Money Spent on:

- Ambarish Karmalkar - \$200
- Google Workspace Package - not needed now.
- MACD Membership - No vote needed. Will send a check.

### Summer Foraging Workshop Emily Carvalho

- Saturday, May 18. All who can go should try to attend.

### Switch to Amazon Business for Future Plant Sales

- No cost to switch. Save an average of 10% on certain items.

### American Farm Trust Soil Sampling

- Webinar sent a couple of weeks ago. We can get money (\$1,000) to do soil samples with farmers in our county. \$300 upfront to buy supplies.
- Who would do it?
- No hard deadline for districts to sign up.
- MA Farm Bureau? Could help us with contacts.
- Will touch back on this next meeting.

### Plant Sale

- Plant Sale Report. We made a small amount of money.
- Reimburse for Plant Sale Expenses. Altogether, expenses are about \$3,300.
- Fall plant sale:
  - Andrea reached out to the EMass Craft group to ask if anyone had a space that we could rent for a plant sale. Two responses. One in Lincoln in a barn. The other response in Sherborn - has a greenhouse, organic farm.
  - Miri talked to person at Cavicchio's greenhouses.

- Can maybe sign up for wholesale code to get discounts.
- They may want to sponsor the event - may donate. We will reach out to ask.
- We would select what we wanted to order in advance. There is a restocking fee if we wanted to return anything and it would have to be within 48 hours, so not really feasible.
- They have some natives, trying to increase the number of natives.
- Possibly do a tour of their facilities? Can ask.
- Margaret wants to make sure to include bulbs in the plant sale. Huge response to decorative bulbs.
  - Some mix of natives & decorative.
  - Will look at the costs of bulbs to see how we can repackage them.

#### Other Topics

- Want to plan a hydroponics workshop. Geared toward homes or farmers? Need to get input from Liz.
- Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees is asking for a donation.
  - Will send them \$25.
- Erosion and sediment workshop in coordination with Worcester County Conservation District (WCCD).
- Potential to attend a WCCD meeting to learn from them.

Executive Session Board of Supervisors - postponed until next meeting.

#### **Important Dates:**

May Foraging on the Farm Workshop by Emily Carvalho on May 18, 2024, at 10:00 AM at Clark Farm in Carlisle (Address: 185 Concord Street, Carlisle, MA 01741)

USDA NRCS \$1.5 Billion Available for Partner-Driven Conservation Solutions. Grant Proposals due by July 2, 2024, by 4:59 PM.

Applicant Outreach Webinar May 30, 2024, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Motion to adjourn by Miri Becker. Margaret Delano seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.