



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Middlesex Canal Commission



FORMING LEGISLATIVE ACT

The Middlesex Canal Commission was established by MGL Acts of 1977, Chapter 403, initiated by the Middlesex Canal Association and amended by Acts of 1982 and Acts 2014.

For the purpose of planning of, establishing, laying out, developing and maintaining a park to be known as the Middlesex Canal Heritage Park.

The organization is composed of 15 members as follows;

1 member of the State House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House

1 member of the State Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate

The Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

The Executive Director of the Northern Middlesex Council of Government

The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (or his/her designee)

The Commissioner of the Massachusetts Highway Department (or his/her designee)

1 person, interested in preserving the Canal, to be appointed by the each of the Chief Administrative Officers of the following municipalities; Lowell, Chelmsford, Billerica, Wilmington, Woburn, Winchester, Medford, Somerville, and Boston.

Thomas Raphael
Chairman

Thomas Lincoln
Vice Chairman

Michael McInnis
Secretary

Betty M. Bigwood
Treasurer

Charles Anderson
Asst. Treasurer

The Commission shall meet at least once annually, and at such other times as it may determine, or as may be determined necessary by the Executive Committee. A quorum and all decisions shall be by majority vote

The Executive Committee is comprised of five members who shall act for the Commission between annual meetings, elected as follows;

*Chairman *Vice Chairman *Secretary *Treasurer *Assistant Treasurer

The Commission shall have the following powers and duties;

Assess and evaluate the remaining features and structures of the Canal,

Prepare, adopt and implement plans to restore the Canal and related structures,

Establish the boundaries of the Heritage Park, with the approval of the municipalities

Within the boundaries, the Commission may restore and/or develop such land and water features and structures, for active and passive recreational and educational use, as may be available to them, through acquisition or gift.

Development may include the placing of descriptive and directional signs.

On private property with the written permission of the owners of said property,

On municipal property with the written permission of the respective municipality

Or on State property with the written permission of the state agency under whose jurisdiction the property falls or on property or easements under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

The erection of signs on state property or on easements or property owned by the Commission shall be at the expense of the Highway Department.

The Commission shall have the power to acquire,

Purchase, lease, or other device, such land, structures, or rights-of-way, either in fee simple or otherwise, along said former canal as the Commission determines necessary

The Commission may accept gifts,

Gifts of real property, of staff services and other in-kind services.

The Commission may also apply for grants or loans from any federal or state agency or any other public or private entity.

The Commission may employ experts, consultants and clerical and other assistants.

The Commission shall report,

From time to time, but at least annually to the general court, the governor, and the chief executive of each municipality in Section 2 of this act on its activities and plans for the Heritage Park.

The appropriate board of a member town, shall at least 14 days, before it permits or approves any activity or action within 100 feet on land abutting the route of the canal, give notice in writing to the Commission. The appropriate board shall include but not be limited to, the city council, board of selectmen, board of aldermen, planning board, zoning board of appeals, conservation commission, historical commission, building or public works department.

TR1112816