

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, March 25, 2014
6:00 P.M.
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

PRESENT: Middlesex Select Board Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Skinner, Select Board members Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, Conservation Commission Members Dave Shepard, Barry Goodman, George Longenecker and Charlie Merriman. Select Board Assistant/Town Clerk Sarah Merriman took minutes.

(On March 25, 2014 a public hearing was held to consider granting a perpetual easement to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board on .68 acres along Three Mile Bridge Road the town purchased through a FEMA buyout after Tropical Storm Irene. Notification of the meeting was published in the Times-Argus, the designated paper of record, on March 7, 2014. In addition, three public notices were posted March 6, 2014 in the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall and Red Hen Bakery.)

Peter Hood called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He reviewed the highlights of the easement – that the property was to remain open in perpetuity for public use and that no development was to take place - and solicited input about how the property might be maintained and enhanced.

Peter brought up the issue of signage, whether it should identify the spot as a public park and if it should limit its uses, such as no overnight camping. Liz proposed the idea of a community garden. Mary said the town might want to consider portable toilets, an idea that several at the meeting said might invite problems. Plus, who was going to be in charge of maintaining them, Peter wanted to know.

Charlie said one idea might be to pose this question at Town Meeting. How would people in Middlesex like the land to be used? Steve added that there really wasn't a rush to do something now. The town could wait a year. Barry said he liked the idea of a "pocket park."

Dave said right now the Conservation Commission needed to draft an interim management plan and get that on the books. Afterwards, the Commission could consider longer term options for the land.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant