

**Select Board Members**

Peter Hood, Chair  
 Mary Just Skinner,  
Vice Chair  
 William Callnan  
 Steve Martin  
 Liz Scharf

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, March 24, 2015**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

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**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Bill Callnan, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, Rumney School Board member and Stone Environmental engineer, Julie Moore, Winooski Conservation District Manager Sophie Sauve, John Demeter, Doug Hayes, and Middlesex Recreation Committee members Jason Merrill, Brian VanHoy, and Mark Campbell and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman

**Call to Order/Welcoming of Guests/Agenda Amendments**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. The agenda was amended to include approval of the 2015 Annual Financial Plan for road maintenance and an application to participate in the 2015 High Risk Rural Roads program.

**Appointing a Select Board Assistant**

**MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded reappointing Sarah as Select Board Assistant. The motion passed.**

**Storm Water Management near Rumney School**

Wearing her "other hat" as an engineer at Stone Environmental, Julie Moore told the board that her firm had been hired by the Winooski Conservation District to work on a grant-funded project looking at storm water management opportunities at Rumney. However, since most of those projects couldn't be started until the elementary school renovations were complete, she said they were addressing a storm-water issue affecting town lands that abut Rumney School, namely a wet area running from the multi-purpose pad to the ditch along Shady Rill. She requested the town's support to pursue grant money to mitigate the build-up of water.

Bill noted that water has accumulated under the multipurpose pad and asked her to keep that in mind when drawing up the design.

Sophie said she hoped to apply for 100% of grant funding by the deadline of April 13.

The town project would cost approximately \$40,000-\$60,000. Sophie and Julie said they were not looking for a town match, "at this time," but that it might help win full-funding grant approval if the town could provide a backhoe.

Peter asked them to return when they have a final design and remember that any request for matching funds and/or town equipment would impact the town's budget.

**Zoning Board Appointment**

The board interviewed John for a position on the Zoning Board of Adjustment to fill the spot vacated by Dennis Nealon. **MOTION: Bill moved and Mary seconded appointing John to the ZBA. The motion passed.**

### **Update on former Morse Property behind Town Hall**

Peter apprised the board that at the Select Board's request, Sarah asked Joel Behrsing of The Johnson Company about possible alternative septic locations that might have been determined when his firm conducted an environmental site assessment of the former Morse lot in 2007. Behrsing's memory was that a septic site was not possible at the top of the "hill" but could be located at the bottom of the lot near 100B where the soil is sandy. So the question is now whether the town is willing to sell the land considering recent problems with the current septic system, Peter said.

The board agreed that it wanted to explore all potential solutions before deciding whether to sell the lot to David Specht, owner of the Middlesex County Store, who wants to use it for his own expanded septic system, gas tanks and parking. Bill said he would prefer to have a clean break rather by selling or not selling the lot instead of the town offering easements to the store or vice versa.

Steve said he would price out an approximant cost and feasibility of building a mound system behind Town Hall.

### **Recreation Committee Issues: Town Fields and Onion River Soccer**

Brian, a coach with Onion River Soccer, asked if two teams of 12, 12-year-olds each could practice twice a week and hold games on Sundays during the spring on town fields adjacent to Rumney School. He said he has aerated and seeded the fields in the past, but acknowledged that the fields are clay and in need of major improvement.

Bill said that field was built for baseball which is more low impact than soccer. Brian said more kids play soccer than baseball. Liz said the issue isn't what kinds of sports are being played, but the condition of the fields and making them usable for all. She said it would unfair to ban one group but allow others.

Peter said that because the fields are in such poor condition, they cannot be used at all this spring.

Jason said he is drafting a plan to improve the fields. He said water needs to be drawn off and Mary suggested coordinating with Stone Environmental and the Winooski Conservation District which are planning storm-water drainage systems. He said he is running into Act 250 concerns because the town fields are on the same lot as the town shed.

The more immediate question was whether to use the fields and under what conditions and if there was someone who could be designated to open and close the fields. Since no one wanted to take on that role, Peter suggested closing the fields this spring, once the snow melts, until further notice. **MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded closing the fields once the snow melts until further notice. The motion passed.**

The board suggested asking Lauren Caswell, Rumney's physical education director, to serve as liaison between the school and the rec committee for better communication about use of the fields.

### **Doug Hayes's Request to Serve on the Recreation Committee**

Doug reiterated that the Select Board appointed him to the rec committee in the fall of 2013 and that to his surprise the rec committee disbanded the following spring without

informing him. Later that year, Jason reformed the rec committee which includes Jeff Pryce, Tammy Joslyn, Brian Van Hoy and Mark Campbell. Doug wants to join as well. Peter said the Rec Committee should conduct interviews for committee members and submit its recommendations to the Select Board. After that, the board would decide whom to appoint.

(At this point, Liz left the meeting.)

**Waiving the 8% Penalty on Late Homestead Declaration Filers.**

**MOTION: Mary moved and Bill seconded waiving all penalties. The motion passed and the board agreed to revisit the issue next year.**

**Zoning Regulations Update.**

Steve, who is also the chair of the Planning Commission, said it is the commission's goal to submit a draft of new zoning regulations to the Select Board by June so there is plenty of time for the public hearing process necessary before placing the issue on the 2016 Town Warning.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- a.) Peter signed the Repayment Schedule for loan RF1-067-1
- b.) **MOTION: Peter moved and Bill seconded renewing the liquor license for the Middlesex Country Store. The motion passed. All present members signed the application.**
- c.) All orders were signed.
- d.) **MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approval of 3.10.2015 Select Board minutes. The motion passed.**
- e.) Sarah told the Board that Kingsbury Companies, LLC, planned to build a garage and office space at the former Atwood property at 58 Center Road and would be seeking a conditional use permit from the ZBA on 4.14.2015.
- f.) **MOTION: Peter moved and Bill seconded approval of the 2016 Annual Financial Plan for town roads. The motion passed and the plan was signed.**
- g.) The board postponed discussing Select Board goals for 2015
- h.) The board agreed to participate in the 2015 2015 High Risk Rural Roads program. Peter signed the application.

**Executive Session**

**Motion: Peter moved and Bill seconded entering executive session to discuss personnel issues at 7 p.m. At 7:05, Peter moved and Bill seconded exiting executive session. No action was taken.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.