

Select Board Members

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

MINUTES

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

5:00 PM

Middlesex Town Clerk's Office

5 Church Street

Middlesex, Vermont 05602

(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

Present: Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Steve Martin and Liz Scharf, Chair Peter Hood and member Bill Callnan by speakerphone. Treasurer and Zoning Administrator Cindy Carlson. Also Bill Rossmassler, Middlesex Conservation Chair Dave Shepard, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Mary called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. There were no amendments. While waiting for scheduled guests, the Board addressed items under OTHER BUSINESS.

Ruth Dockter Nomination to Budget Committee and 9.22.2015 SB Minutes

MOTION: Peter moved and Bill seconded approving Ruth Dockter to the Town Budget Committee. Bill said it would be good to have a CPA involved in the budget process. **The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.**

MOTION: Bill moved and Liz seconded approval of the 9.22.2015 Select Board minutes. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Tirone Lot/Dolan Road

Cindy said a 10.3-acre lot owned by John and June Tirone was created during a subdivision in 1999 with 300 feet of road frontage, which is 100 feet short of what is currently required under zoning regulations that were passed in 2006. However, when the lot was created, only 200 feet of road frontage was required. Cindy asked the Board to rule it a buildable lot. The Board agreed that the lot was grandfathered.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded deeming the Tirone lot buildable because it had sufficient road frontage when it was created and, therefore, was grandfathered and legal under the current regulations. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

AOT Questionnaire RE: I-89 Culvert Repair

The Board responded to an AOT questionnaire soliciting concerns regarding anticipated repairs on a culvert under the interstate just north of Exit 9. Bill said he was concerned that diverted traffic on Route 2 would cause traffic jams and perhaps pose problems for the town fire department if engines had to exit Welch Park in emergencies. Peter noted that Route 2 has already taken a beating from the increased Waterbury traffic due to repairs at Exit 10. Therefore, the state might want to consider repaving it after this next phase of repairs is completed. The Board asked Sarah to state the above concerns in a letter to AOT.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed a letter from Kim Bolduc, Middlesex representative to the Central Vermont State Police Advisory Board, requesting an annual donation to the organization which holds a picnic for the Vermont State Police and their families, among other activities. She said most towns donate between \$50 and \$75.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded donating \$75 to the CVSPAB as the town's 2015 donation. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote.

The Board discussed a funding request from Front Porch Forum, an online, community-centered daily listserv. Although FPF is not a charity, the Board agreed that it provides a valuable service for the town and is used by the town clerk and road foreman to update residents about voting, construction, taxes, etc. However, the Board wanted to know what other towns were contributing as well.

MOTION: Peter moved and Steve seconded donating \$100 to Front Porch Forum immediately, but researching what other towns contribute before incorporating any future FPF funding to the annual town budget. The motion passed by a unanimous roll-call vote

Considering a Special Town Meeting to Purchase Cynthia Steed's Property on Notch Road.

The Board discussed whether it was necessary to hold a Special Town Meeting to purchase 38.9 acres at the end of Notch Road owned by Cynthia Steed for \$40,000 to improve access to the Town Forest and to insure that such access was preserved by preventing private development. Mary noted that the town didn't hold such a meeting when it first purchased land for the town forest or when it bought the Morse property next to Town Hall.

Town Attorney Rob Halpert, in an October 13, 2015 memo on this issue, noted "when a town seeks to buy real property there is no statutory provision requiring potential voter authorization of the purchase." Moreover, there was no case law on the issue. The "conservative" approach would be to seek voter input to "immunize" against future legal challenges, he wrote, but this was not legally required.

In light of this information, Peter noted that the town was about to receive an unanticipated revenue of \$21,000 from the sale of the old Morse property that could be added to the Conservation Fund's \$20,000 that was earmarked by the voters for land purchases, especially to expand the Town Forest. That money would more than cover the costs of buying the Steed parcel. The Board agreed and decided not to hold the Special Town Meeting, but to move forward with purchasing the property as planned.

Peter suggested drafting a Purchase and Sale Agreement to be considered at the next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting on October 27th, along with a revised lease giving Cynthia Steed and her offspring exclusive use of her cabin for 99 years.

GNSS Boundary Location Proposal for Town Forest

Regarding a proposal from Vermont Survey and Engineering, Inc. to survey the entire Town Forest using a Global Navigation Satellite System to determine precise boundaries for no more than \$4,000, Bill Rossmassler reminded the board that it had requested

boundaries for logging and trail maintenance. Surveyor Mike Patterson had completed most of the project, but had pretty much done as much as possible without more technology. Steve said he wasn't sure more was needed and Mary suggested that Mike finish up his plans, submit them to the town and be compensated. The Board declined to accept Vermont Survey and Engineering's offer.

Jason Merrill Update on Town Recreation Committee

Since Town Rec Committee chair Jason Merrill was unable to attend the Select Board meeting due to a coaching conflict and had not submitted a written update as requested, the Select Board discussed the state of the Rec Committee and decided to offer Jason three upcoming Select Board meeting dates so he could attend one. Bill Callnan said Grant Knauss, who has taken the initiative to mow the town rec field, should submit an invoice so he can be paid.

The Board discussed changing the dates of the December meetings to the first and third Tuesdays of the month (December 1st and 15th) so they would not conflict with the holidays and budget plans.

All Orders were signed.

Mary adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant