

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, April 26, 2016
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Select Board Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Steve Martin, and Liz Scharf, also Scott Skinner, Sky Barsch and Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant.

Call to Order

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:02. The agenda was amended to include a request from a school group to use the Town rec building for storage.

Leland Farm Road Mowing

In following up his letter to the Board re: over-mowing on Leland Farm Road, Scott asked the Board to clarify if there is a Class 4 road-mowing policy and, if so, how far back into the Town's right of way a Class 4 road may be mowed. Currently, Leland Farm is Class 3 to Scott's house, after which it becomes Class 4. A real estate agent representing a multi-lot subdivision at the end of the Class 4 portion has been advocating that the sides of the road be mowed more than necessary, according to Scott, so that access to the subdivision will look "more like a parkland than Vermont." Peter said the Town tries to be as consistent as possible with regard to mowing. However, in this case, when Owen Ward received a subdivision permit, it was Peter's recollection that the approval contained a provision for Ward to upgrade the Class 4 portion with an eventual goal of making it Class 3. When that happens, the Town will take over the maintenance. Scott said he had no record of that provision. Peter said the Town would research the history of the Owen Ward permit and whether it addressed the Class 4 portion being upgraded to Class 3 before proceeding further.

Revised 2016 LEOP Approved

The Board reviewed the 2016 Local Emergency Operations Plan that was revised to include cell numbers of emergency officials and lists of local day-care centers.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approving the 2016 LEOP. The motion passed.

Paying for a Defibrillator at Rumney School

After first considering a request last month to split the \$1,000 cost of a defibrillator for Rumney School, the Board reviewed letters from school nurse Martha Israel and Terese Urban in support of the purchase. Martha noted the school was used by the Town for Town Meeting while Terese wrote that she and her school-aged children, who suffered from a life-threatening genetic heart condition, would appreciate the device.

Members of the Board agreed that a defibrillator in the school was a good idea. But they were loath to set the precedent of buying school equipment. Liz noted many schools budget for defibrillators. Peter suggested that Rumney hold a fundraiser or put a notice on Front Porch Forum requesting donations.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded not splitting the cost of purchasing a defibrillator for Rumney. The motion passed.

Denying VT's Request to Extend the Deadline for Removing the Temporary Therapeutic Community Residence on Route 2

Peter said he'd received a phone call from Hal Cohen, the Secretary of VT Human Services and a Middlesex resident, who explained that, contrary to an earlier understanding, the Legislature would not be allocating special funding for siting a permanent facility this year, so the Board's decision to hold off on its decision until the Legislature adjourned was moot.

Liz said she saw no reason, at the moment, to approve what would now be a third extension. If the Board were to deny this latest request, the State would still have two years to locate a permanent site before returning to the Town and asking for another extension, hopefully with clearer plans in place. Steve said he also had a problem with the state's forthrightness on this issue. Peter asked what about a \$500/day penalty if the State went beyond the proposed January 1, 2020 deadline. Liz said that could be addressed later.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded denying the State of Vermont its request to extend the deadline for removing the temporary secure facility on Route 2 from January 1, 2018 to January 1, 202. The motion passed.

Approving a Revised Animal Control Ordinance

The Board again reviewed a revised animal control ordinance, striking from the draft any mention of "potentially vicious dogs," since a potential description was too subjective. A definition of vicious dogs was added and one for working-farm dog clarified to insure that those dogs were licensed as such. The holding time for stray dogs was set at seven days, per state statute, and the Board added the option of a written notice for a first offense.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approving the new Dog and Wolf-Hybrid Ordinance. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approval of the April 12, 2016, Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approval of the following Conservation Commission members and their term expirations: Dick Alderman, 2019; Larry Becker, 2019; Scott Gurley, 2017; George Longenecker, 2017; Charlie Merriman, 2017; Lee Rosberg, 2018; Dave Shepard, 2016 and two vacancies. The motion passed.

Considering a free safe from the Town of Lincoln. After discussing the costs of transporting and installing a heavy safe, the Board suggested buying a lockable, fire-proof cabinet to store money and personnel files instead.

All orders were signed. Financial reports were reviewed.

The Board considered an email from Talitha Landis-Mariello asking if a group of parents could use the Town's outbuilding by the tennis courts at Rumney school for storing garden tools. Also, if the toilet could be used by the public. Peter noted there had been problems with people misusing the small outbuilding in the past. Public access was not a good idea, though the Board might consider leasing the building to the school for a nominal sum in the future. Otherwise, the Board had no problem with the group planting around the shed's exterior.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

The above minutes were approved at a regularly warned meeting on _____, 2016.

DRAFT