

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, June 14, 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 Bill Callnan, Steve Martin, and Liz Scharf, Treasurer Cindy Carlson, Mike Fraysier, state lands administrator for the VT Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, and Sarah Merriman, Select Board Assistant.

Call to Order

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:03. The agenda was amended to rearrange the order so financial issues could be discussed first while Cindy was present.

Reviewing Financials/Moving FY2016 BOR to Rec Fund

The Board reviewed the financials as of June 13, 2016, a few weeks until the end of the fiscal year.

MOTION: Bill moved and Liz seconded transferring the balance of the BOR FY16 line item to the rec department reserved fund on July 1, 2016. The motion passed.

Confirming FY17 Town Employee Pay Raises

The Board confirmed its intention, as manifested in the FY17 budget passed in January, to grant every Town employee a \$1/hour pay raise and then an additional raise of 1.5% on top of that, starting July 1, 2016. The Board did not feel a motion was necessary.

Accepting Bill Yacavoni's Letter of Resignation/Searching for New Auditor

The Board accepted CPA William Yacavoni's June 2, 2016, notice that he would not be auditing the Town's accounts and reviewed a VLCT survey of Vermont towns, their auditing practices and auditors. The Board asked Cindy to request bids from Fothergill, Segale and Valley; Sullivan, Powers and Company; Batchelder & Associates, and Angelano & Company. Cindy said she would send the RFPs via email.

Shady Rill Picnic Area

In response to the State's decision to close the Shady Rill picnic area, Mike Fraysier spoke to the Board about the Town taking control of the locally popular park. Mike explained that the Division of Dam Safety oversees the park because it is actually part of the State's flood-control program.

However, with new riparian guidelines, the Division felt the \$9,000 it spent each year on maintaining the park could be better used on actual dam safety, especially since the Division has no management staff to oversee the area.

That said, the park is a popular attraction for Middlesex and Montpelier residents, some of whom were upset at its closure this spring. (The park reopened before Memorial Day, but is not being maintained.) Mike said the State could grant the Town a license to operate the park with a goal toward eventually acquiring the land.

Peter said his most immediate concern was getting the park in shape for the Fourth of July. Mary said that if the State turned over management of the area to the Town and yet still retained ownership, Middlesex should receive State money for upkeep. The Board discussed a trial period for two years, during which the Town could evaluate the level of care required while working out details with the State for a possible land acquisition.

Mike said he thought the Department of Environmental Conservation might be amendable to a pilot period with an eventual acquisition, especially if the Town did some conservation work in the area, such as shoring up the stream banks. He would go back to the DEC and discuss renewing the contract with Donna French to mow and maintain the park just for this summer while a transition plan was established. Bill approved of this idea since the Town has not budgeted for this park's maintenance in the upcoming fiscal year.

Peter asked for an email from DEC to the Town giving the Town permission to mow the area before the Fourth of July. Mike said he would look into that.

Town Recreation Director

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded entering into Executive Session to discuss potential candidates for the Town Recreation Director. The motion passed and the Board entered Executive Session at 5:58 pm.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded exiting Executive Session at 6:13 p.m.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded granting authority to Bill and Peter to meet with Middlesex resident Mitch Osiecki to discuss his application to become Rec Director and, if applicable, offer him the job.

Updating the Class 4 Road Policy

The Board reviewed the Town's Class 4 Road Policy that had been updated with changes suggested at the last meeting. The updated policy clarifies conditions in which abutting land owners may upgrade class-4 roads.

MOTION: Steve moved and Bill seconded approving the updated Town Class 4 Roads and Trails Policy. The motion passed.

Mad River Byway Header Replacement Sign Proposal

The Board reviewed a proposal by Wood & Wood to redo the fading Mad River Byway headers on the Red Hen kiosk for about \$500 and decided to investigate less expensive options.

OTHER BUSINESS

Peter signed a driveway permit for Richard Cowles.

MOTION: Bill moved and Steve seconded approval of the May 24, 2016 Select Board minutes. Mary abstained. The motion passed.

The Board reviewed a list of Middlesex dogs licensed by May 30, 2016.

The Board reviewed Tammy Picard's email of June 2, 2016, complaining about the condition of the Town fields by Rumney School and asking for permission to hold a flea market day once a month to raise money for the fields' upkeep. The Board noted the Town is hiring a Rec Director in large part to maintain the fields and applauded her idea of a fund-raising flea market as long as it wasn't set up on the tennis courts. The Board suggested Town Hall or in front of the Shady Rill Fire Station, instead.

The Board also reviewed a June 13, 2016, email from Road Foreman Paul Cerminara asking for permission to use an "emergency only" credit card to purchase non-ethanol-based gasoline for use in the Highway Department's small motors. The Select Board granted permission.

All orders were signed.

Peter asked Sarah to contact Julie Moore about getting the drainage completed outside Rumney School before Shady Rill Road is repaved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

DRAFT