

Select Board Members
 Peter Hood, Chair
 Mary Just Skinner,
Vice Chair
 Phil Hyjek
 Steve Martin
 Liz Scharf

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
5:00 PM
Rumney Memorial School
43 Shady Rill Road
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

Present: Chair, Peter Hood, members Steve Martin, Phil Hyjek and Liz Scharf. Nancy Reilly and Select Board Assistant, Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Welcoming of Guests/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. There were no amendments. He welcomed guest Nancy Reilly who asked to address the Board.

Nancy Reilly's Concerns about Restricting Public Use of Rumney School

Nancy told the Board she is worried about U32 Superintendent Bill Kimball's recommendation that the Rumney School Board restrict public use of Rumney School for "insurance reasons." If this came to fruition, she said, no more community events could be held at the school, including the Middlesex Town Meeting, annual pie breakfast and harvest dinner. She said the building is more than a school; it is a beautiful community center. In fact, this was a selling point during the \$4.3million bond vote to expand Rumney School that was eventually approved by the voters in November 2014. Moreover, Bill had suggested that any school with a pre-Kindergarten program like Rumney needed to "vet" all adults before they could enter the building. She asked the Select Board to send a representative to the School Board and urge them to maintain local control over their school by rejecting these recommendations.

Peter said that in his 45 years selling insurance, including municipal coverage, he had never come across a situation where a public building such as a school would restrict public use. He could see the school instituting a policy during school hours, but not when the school wasn't in session. Liz wondered if the vetting requirement meant that an out-of-town grandfather couldn't attend a Rumney school play. The Board agreed to send a representative to discuss this with the School Board ASAP.

The VT DEC's 2017 Summer Plans for Shady Rill Park

After numerous discussions between the Select Board and the Middlesex Conservation Commission and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation about temporarily turning over maintenance of Shady Rill Park to the Town and/or the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District this year, Eric Blatt, VT DEC Facilities Engineering Division Director, said the State would be funding maintenance of the park in the summer of 2017. In a May 22 email to Sarah, Eric confirmed that his department was issuing RFPs to "fully cover the cost of a contract for maintenance of the Shady Rill picnic area."

However, Collin O'Neal, who maintains Wrightsville, in an email to the Board sent on the same day, noted that according to the RFP, the state's maintenance would not kick in until sometime in mid to late June. Therefore, he offered to take care of some of the opening tasks between now and then - including unlocking tables and cleaning the bathrooms - for \$38/hour. He asked if the Town would be willing to foot that bill.

In subsequent conversations with Eric, Sarah said the State planned to assess the park on May 24th and might be able to temporarily contract someone to mow the property after Memorial Day, but not before. Would the Select Board be willing to pay for a week of prep and maintenance?

Peter said he was opposed to this arrangement not because of the expense, which would be relatively minor, but because of principle. This land was owned by the State and therefore needed to be maintained by the State. The Board agreed.

Multi-Family Yard Sale at the Bandstand

The Board considered Dina Bahrawy's request to hold a multi-family yard sale at the Bandstand off Shady Rill Road. In a May 18, 2017, email to Peter, Dina said the Bandstand committee signed off this request provided no one drive on the grass, that the grass was dry and that the Select Board approved it. Peter noted he encourages people to use the Bandstand as a public space.

MOTION: Liz moved and Phil seconded allowing Dina Bahrawy to hold a multi-family yard sale at the Bandstand this summer. The motion passed.

The CVRPC Story Road Traffic Study

The Board reviewed a traffic study recently completed by CVRPC at no cost to the Town on Story Road. The study showed that about 85% of the motorists going downhill toward Shady Rill are exceeding the speed limit by 10%. Sarah said she would forward it to the Washington County Sheriff.

Clarification on Penalty for Late or Non-Filing a VT Homestead Declaration Form

This matter was passed over because the issue had been previously clarified.

OTHER BUSINESS

All orders were signed.

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded approval of the May 9, 2017 Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

The Board received May 23 and May 16 letters from Douglas Farnham, Director of Property Valuation and Review, granting the Town Listers 60 more days to file their 2017 assessments.

The Board discussed the latest round of complaints against Lauren Heyl's dogs on Wood Road, the ACO's dealings with them over the weekend, and her refusal to license her dogs despite two Town summons. The Board asked that a warrant for the dogs' seizure be placed on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting on June 13.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant