

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

MINUTES  
**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, February 26, 2019**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

---

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chair Peter O. Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Phil Hyjek, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell, Middlesex Conservation Commission Chair Lee Rosberg and MCC Member George Longenecker, Gianna Petito, District Manager, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Bill and Patty McManis, Fred Connor of Connor Construction, Amy Macrellis, Project Water Quality Specialist at Stone Environmental, Jerome Lipani recording for ORCA and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order/Amendments**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. There were no amendments.

**Winooski NRC D's Plans for Streams along Shady Rill Road**

Gianna noted the Winooski Conservation District has been working on two projects affecting the streams that run along Shady Rill Road. The first project has undergone a 30% design plan with Stone Environmental to divert wastewater currently flowing through a Town culvert at the corner of East Bear Swamp, along the Rumney property, through another culvert under Shady Rill, onto the school's mound system, across the Pendergast property, and down the hill to Martin's Creek. That water is contributing to erosion on the hill and dumping sediment in the brook.

The second project is focused on riparian reparations in the popular swimming/picnic area at the bottom of Shady Rill Road. Gianna said Stone and WNRCD wants to stem bank erosion by building four access spots for swimming, one of which would be ADA compliant. In addition, she said a sediment plug needs to be removed and the road into the picnic area rerouted to allow more space along the bank for plantings. Lee clarified that the purpose of that picnic area and beyond was to dissipate the energy of flood events and to reduce more sediment flowing into Wrightsville. The area is owned by the Dam Division of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources which is contracted with the US Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the area in perpetuity.

Gianna asked if the Town could offer an in-kind contribution for a matching grant by offering the Highway Department's services to move the road. The Highway Department is booked through 2019, but maybe 2020?

Peter said the picnic area is frequented more by non-Middlesex residents and that he would be reluctant to offer the road crew for 100% of the matching grant when the land is owned by the State and used by those from other towns. Mary suggested accessing Wrightsville's data to find out which towns use that area the most. Gianna said that for non-MS4 communities (communities that don't operate their own wastewater systems) there may be no match required. She said after April 1, 2019, the WNRCD will send out RFPs.

Peter said he was concerned about the culvert at Rumney since he remembered Stone Environmental recommending that the culvert be installed to reduce water runoff on the road. Now, that turns out to be a bad thing. Amy from Stone said it was a good decision, except maybe not in terms of the leach field across the street. Amy and Gianna left the meeting.

**Approving the Herrick Brook and Martin's Creek Headwaters as B1 Fisheries**

Lee said the trout population at the headwaters of Herrick Brook and Martin's Creek has grown to the point where they can be classified as B1 fisheries. This means that, if the Select Board so approves, the Town may set restrictions for installing driveways or buildings near the banks of those stream sections. Peter said he wasn't a fan of the State imposing additional restrictions. Lee clarified that the Select Board vote means only that the Town *could* place restrictions in its zoning, not that it must.

**MOTION:** Mary moved and Phil seconded approving permit reclassification of designated B1 fisheries on Herrick Brook and Martin's Creek. The motion passed. George and Lee left the meeting.

**Improving Signage at French, Culver and Government Hill Roads**

In response to a February 10, 2019 email from French Road resident Penny Downen that signage at the corner of French, Culver and Government Hill roads was lacking, the Board discussed this issue with Bill and Patty McManis who live on that corner. Bill and Patty said the 35 m.p.h speed posting is too fast and drivers unfamiliar with the area are overshooting the turn and running off the road. Patty, who grew up in the house where she now lives, said that if she didn't know that corner, she'd have been in an accident, too. To further complicate matters, GPS programs are sending drivers to French Road via Government Hill. Those unfamiliar with the area don't know where to turn, Penny noted in her email. Patty wondered if some confusion could be eliminated by renaming the entire road Culver, but agreed that would be a nuisance for those on French. At the very least, there needs to be clear signs designating each of the roads and perhaps some signage to slow down.

Steve said he's reviewed this matter before and thinks maybe three stop signs might be the answer. Liz, who lives on Culver Hill, questioned whether they would be effective since those used to the corner might just blow through the intersection. The Board agreed to think of possible solutions and discuss this at a future meeting.

Patty added that the Highway Department has been widening the corner during grading and, in so doing, chipping away at her property. She would like that to stop.

Peter reminded the Board that it needed to revisit the issue of signage at Molly Supple and Center roads after Cynthia Martin raised questions about the intersection. Bill and Patty left the meeting.

**Changing the Name of Knapp Road to Connor Pass**

Fred Connor withdrew his request to change the name of Knapp Road, which runs through property owned entirely by Connor Construction, to Connor Pass, pending his research into Ward Knapp, after whom the road was named. Liz agreed that if there were some history attached to the road, then it would be better not to change it, though Steve said since Knapp Road is just a remnant of the old US Route 2 left after I89 was built, the history is fairly recent. Peter said the Select Board has historically allowed for road name changes. Fred left the meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** Phil moved and Steve seconded approving the February 6, 2019 Select Board minutes. Mary abstained since she wasn't present at that meeting. The motion passed and the minutes were signed.

All orders were signed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON MARCH 12, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHILIP HYJEK

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVEN MARTIN

\_\_\_\_\_  
ELIZABETH SCHARF

DRAFT