

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

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

MINUTES

PRESENT: Select Board Chair Peter Hood, members Liz Scharf and Steve Martin. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Planning Commission Chair Sandy Levine, Vice-Chair Elias Gardner, Secretary Mitch Osiecki, and member Theo Kennedy. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman and Sue Bettmann from ORCA.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. There were no amendments or guests.

Drafting Select Board Goals

The Board reviewed last year's goals which included projects completed, or mostly completed, in 2018 such as discontinuing certain roads, making Rumney School an emergency shelter, and designating the MVFD fire station at Welch Park as emergency management headquarters. Some goals, such as revising the Town Plan and upgrading the five-year capital plan, were still in progress.

Liz suggested exploring repairs on the existing Town Hall or researching alternative sites for a new Town Hall, stressing that the Board should set a goal. Her chief concern was ADA compliance. Some steps could be taken now, Peter suggested, such as installing a roof over the entrance to the elevator so it doesn't get blocked with snow and ice. The Board should also address the Highway Department garage. Liz wondered if the two – Town Hall and the Highway Garage – could be combined.

Dorinda said the Board needs to revise the personnel policy before May 1st to address how employee vacation time is tracked and how it accrues. The Board agreed to add this to the agenda for the April 2nd Select Board meeting and to perhaps finalize Select Board goals then.

Treasurer's Report

Dorinda said she received a call from a broker at Edward Jones who said he'd been asked by Middlesex Cemetery Commission member Janet McKinstry to write a letter explaining under what circumstances she'd been removed as a signatory on the North Branch Cemetery account. The broker said he is not allowed to discuss the account with Janet and was seeking guidance. Board members expressed befuddlement since at a recent meeting with members of the MCC, the Board made it clear cemetery commission members were invited to participate in meetings with Edward Jones and the Select Board to determine the account's direction. The Board decided to contact the Town Attorney regarding this matter to see how much leeway, if any, could be given to the MCC's inquiries with the vendor.

Joint Planning Commission Meeting Re: Updating Town Plan

Sandy called the Planning Commission to order at 5:40 PM. She distributed a timeline for drafting the 2019 Town Plan along with associated public hearings and a possible town-wide vote on September 3rd. The PC's goal was to work in harmony with the Select Board so there wouldn't be any last-minute changes to the plan which could push the vote past September 3rd, a date picked to coordinate with grant proposals. Theo said his concern was to make sure the Town Plan was written to anticipate future revisions to the Town's land-use ordinance. The PC agreed to allow postings of the Town Plan drafts on the Town's website and planned to hold an informal hearing on the draft on May 9th followed by a formal public hearing before the PC on June 19th.

Theo advocated for sending a postcard to all Middlesex households encouraging residents to complete an online survey that's been available for over a year soliciting opinions on the Town plan. The boards discussed whether it was too late to send out postcards since the plan was already in draft form. Theo said he wanted to make sure people didn't feel "foreclosed" on providing input. The boards agreed to establish a deadline for survey

responses, most likely at the informal hearing on May 9th. That would give the PC enough time to create a draft with the surveys' input by the deadline of May 15th since the draft needed to be available no fewer than 30 days before the June 19th public hearing. Elias noted that, as with public comments, respondents could still email their thoughts to the Planning Commission.

Sandy adjourned the PC portion of the meeting at 5:10 PM. Elias and Mitch left the meeting.

Break for Board of Civil Authority Meeting

Peter adjourned the Select Board meeting at 6:10 until the end of the Board of Civil Authority Meeting. He reopened the Select Board meeting at 6:20 PM. Theo and Sandy left.

Paying for the PC Town Plan Postcards

The Board discussed how to pay for the \$1,200 projected to mail and produce the Planning Commission's postcards regarding the Town Plan survey and agreed that the money should come out of the PC's 2019 budget with an anticipated overrun.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded appointing Lauri Scharf as alternate to Phil Hyjek on the Central Vermont Internet Board. The motion passed.

MOTION: Steve moved and Liz seconded approving the March 12, 2019 Select Board minutes. The motion passed and those present signed the minutes.

Peter apprised the Board of persistent water issues at the Consolidated Building at Welch Park and whether the Town should extricate itself from the communal potable water supply agreement. The matter is on the agenda for the April 2, 2019 Select Board meeting. A representative from Benderson, which owns the Consolidated Building, has been invited to attend. Carl Bailin of Hartigan also plans to attend.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON APRIL 2, 2019.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

N/A
MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

N/A
PHILIP HYJEK

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF