

Select Board Members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Hood, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Hyjek
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Martin
<input type="checkbox"/> Liz Scharf

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, October 5, 2021
REMOTE VIA ZOOM + Town Hall
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Peter O. Hood, Chair, Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair. Members Liz Scharf, Phil Hyjek and Steve Martin. Planning Commission Chair Sandy Levine and Commission Member Mitch Osiecki, George Longenecker of the Conservation Commission, Road Commissioner Vic Dwire and former Road Foreman Paul Cerminara. **PRESENT AT TOWN HALL:** Treasurer Dorinda Crowell and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman, who took the minutes. This meeting was virtually recorded by ORCA

Call to Order

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM. The agenda was amended to include an Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (1). Also, the Planning Commission Update was moved to 5:30 PM

Appointing Sarah Birgé Assistant Zoning Administrator

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approving the Planning Commission's recommendation that Sarah Birgé be appointed Assistant Zoning Administrator. The motion passed. Since this position conflicts with Sarah's post on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, she will have to resign, thereby creating an opening.

Possible Health Violations at Shady Rill Park and the Wrightsville Boat Launch

George outlined improvements to the park at the bottom of Shady Rill Road owned by the Dam Division of the VT Agency of Natural Resources. The crumbling bank along Patterson Creek was shored up and the road moved and blocked at the end. Willow saplings have been planted along the stream. That said, the outhouse is unusable and unsanitary, according to George who visited that park and the boat launch into the Wrightsville Reservoir with a VT Fish & Wildlife officer and also with Dr. Robert Penney, the Town Health Officer. The launch has no facilities, either, and is unsanitary. George ask the Select Board, as the Town Board of Health, to convene and cite the state for health-code violations. The Board agreed to do so.

Planning Commission Update

Sandy sent the Board a hyperlink, which is also posted on the What's Next Middlesex? site, with updates on various Planning Commission projects. The PC is holding hearing on the Energy Town Plan on October 28, 2021. After that, the plan will be sent to the Select Board with a proposed vote at the March 2022 Town Meeting. The Commission hopes to complete its updates of the Town's zoning regulations by the of 2021 or the beginning of 2022. Peter said he would sign the contract with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to continue consulting on the project. Sandy said the Commission received 143 responses to its survey about a walkable village and will incorporate them into the study Dubois & King is conducting. Most of the work on the VT Department of Health grant regarding the overlooks behind Camp Meade has been completed.

Treasurer Update

The Board discussed the ongoing dispute with Lafayette (Highway Specialties) bill for the improperly installed signs on VT Route 12. Lafayette maintains they relied on advice from the State which turned out to be wrong. The Board authorized Dorinda to pay the bill of \$2,462.

ARPA (Coronavirus Relief) Funds: Dorinda said there's a lot of information now regarding use of the funds. For example, they can be used to offset the costs of anything that had to be done to make offices COVID compliant. That could mean moving the land-recording station upstairs like the office had to do last year. Peter said he spoke to the head of CV Fiber about what the Town would get in return if it turned over its ARPA money to them; Peter said the answer was unclear. Mary spoke to a CV Fiber representative about broadband hookup options for low-income residents. The Board will take up the issue at the October 19 Select Board meeting when the CVRPC's point person on these funds will speak with the Board. The Middlesex representative to CV Fiber will also attend.

Highway Update

The Board discussed the conundrum of replacing culverts on the paved section of Center Road this fall. Vic said covering them with material will not work during the winter; it will create potholes, ice pockets, etc. However, if the crew paves over them temporarily this fall, then they will have to rip up the paving during the paving project in the spring of 2022. This will be expensive. Former Road Commissioner Steve agreed a gravel covering will not hold over the winter. Vic said paving immediately after installing culverts is also problematic because they haven't had time to settle. He estimated the paving to cost about \$10,000. Right now, the Town has \$229,000 in the paving fund and a \$175,000 grant for the project that is estimated to cost \$331,000.

Paul said the crew didn't have any problem paving Shady Rill shortly after replacing culverts three years ago because the culverts were adequately compacted. Dorinda questioned why the Town can't leave it a gravel road over the winter. The Board asked Vic to investigate and get back to the Board. *NOTE: in a follow up email to the Board on October 6, Vic said the entire project would be postponed until the spring. "They will however remove berm material and do ditching as long as their work schedule allows."

Special Articles for the March 2022 Town Meeting

The Board discussed whether to require petitions for funding requests over \$250, per Town procedure. Since the Middlesex Harvest Dinner has been cancelled, along with school concerts and functions, because of COVID, there are few opportunities for organizations to gather signatures. Last year, the Board suspended the requirement for signatures of 5% of the Town's voters, provided the following: 1) The requesting organizations appeared on the previous year's Town Meeting Warning and 2) the organizations did not increase their requests from the prior year. However, an increase in requests over \$250 or any new organizations would still need to garner signatures from 75 voters.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded adopting the policy from the 2020 Town Meeting requiring signatures from 5% of the Town's voters for all requests over \$250 if the requesting organization was not on the 2020 Town Meeting Warning or it was, but it has increased its request. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approving the September 21, 2021 Select Board meeting minutes. The motion passed.

MOTION: Steve moved and Phil seconded approving the minutes from the September 23, 2021 Special Select Board meeting. The motion passed. Mary and Liz abstained because they did not attend.

All orders were signed.

Liz discussed the new email system. The Board wants everyone to be notified of the new Middlesex addresses.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded entering Executive Session to discuss personnel matters 1V.S.A. § 313 (a) (1) and to permit Vic, Dorinda and Sarah to attend. The motion passed and the Board entered Executive Session at 6:35 PM. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:23 PM. There was no action.

The meeting adjourned at 7: 24 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE REMOTELY APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON OCTOBER 19, 2021

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

PHILIP HYJEK

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF