

**Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2017
6:00 p.m. Middlesex Town Office**

Present: Susan Clark, Janette Shaffer, Dave Shepard, Greg Whitchurch

1. Remote Town Meeting Participation (RTMP)

Janette noted that a new camera will be needed for RTMP this year as there were some problems with the video quality last year. Bandwidth may also have been part of the problem. Greg suggested asking people to put their phones in airplane mode might help. An iPad might also be used. Janette will look into possible remedies. The outreach for RTMP usually starts in January.

2. Meals on Wheels

Mary Hood has met with Karol from the Waterbury Senior Center about information for Town Meeting about the Meals on Wheels program. Susan has suggested to Tim Murphy that he contact Mary about that meeting to get a sense of what additional assistance he might provide to Karol.

3. Act 46

Susan reported that the committee for the U32 district will be proposing an alternative governance structure.

4. Community Visioning Forum

Considering some currently challenging issues in Middlesex, including with Rumney School, it might be a good time to consider a Community Visioning Forum as a community strengthening event. Susan has experience with these events and described what such a forum typically involves. It's possible it could be done without funding support but some funding would likely be helpful. In the past there has been state grant money available to support an even like this; Dave will look into whether such grants are currently available.

5. Town Plan

Susan attended the most recent Planning Commission meeting where they were working on the questions for a survey to inform the update of the Town Plan. Greg suggested testing a draft of the survey on some volunteers before widespread distribution. The plan is to make the survey available in both electronic and paper forms. If there was to be a public meeting(s) the Planning Commission was uncertain of whether to hold the meeting before or after receiving the results of the survey. In addition to testing the survey on some volunteers, the TMSC also recommended enlisting someone knowledgeable about setting up an online survey to make sure it functions smoothly.

6. Town Meeting Solutions Committee (TMSC) Priorities

Susan asked committee members what their priorities were for the committee this year. The following priorities were identified:

- Support Town Meeting.

- Community Visioning Forum – this would likely require the establishment of a steering committee.
- Attracting new members to the TMSC.

The next meeting of the TMSC will be held on January 11th at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, Secretary