

Select Board Members
_ X_Peter Hood, Chair
X_Mary Just Skinner,
Vice Chair
_ X_Steve Martin
_ X_Liz Scharf
____ Vacant

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, October 11, 2016
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Peter Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Steve Martin and Liz Scharf. Don Hirsch, Bill Rossmassler, Conservation Commission member Dave Shepard, Road Foreman Paul Cerminara, Phil Hyjek, Aaron Weed, and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Amendments

Mary called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. The agenda was amended to include interviews with Don Hirsch, Phil Hyjek and Aaron Weed as possible candidates to temporarily fill the vacancy left by Bill Callnan's resignation.

Accepting Bill Callnan's Resignation

In response to Bill's email of October 10, 2016, officially announcing his resignation, the Board thanked him for his many years of service.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded accepting Bill Callnan's resignation from his three-year seat on the Select Board that expires March 2017. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Sarah apprised the Board that Peter would be meeting with Tom Shea, owner of Deconstruction Works, on October 12 to get a rough estimate of the cost of deconstructing the Old Firehouse behind Town Hall.
- Due to conflicts with the November 8, 2016 General Election and Thanksgiving, the Board decided to reschedule its November meetings from the usual 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month to the 3rd and the 5th (Nov. 15 and 29.)
- Gary Lamell's letter of interest in serving as interim Select Board member was submitted for the record.

Interview with Don Hirsch

Don discussed his interest in serving on the Select Board, the value of community service and his desire to give back to his community. He noted that different people in Town have different priorities – speeding, zoning and affordability being just a few examples – and they should be respected. A former educator who currently restores old theaters, Don said he likes working with communities and small organizations, bringing people together.

Train Station/Town Forest Update

RE: The Old Firehouse. Bill said he knew of people who were interested in leasing or purchasing the Old Firehouse behind Town Hall. Whereas there might not have been interest in using the Old Firehouse in the past, "interests are changing." Mary said his friends should submit formal bids sooner rather than later because the Town is investigating the cost of deconstruction. Peter arrived.

Re: The Old Train Station. Bill said Yestermorrow was interested in using the depot as part of their week-long course in deconstruction. Bill wanted to know if the Town had a "dog in the fight." Could it be used for a Town kiosk or tourist center? Peter said the town is not a compelling force in this matter; the Town has enough buildings as it is. Mary said she supported using Conservation Fund money to preserve the train station, as long as it was reconstructed on public, not private, lands.

Re: The Town Forest. Bill and Dave said the Town Forest plan needs to be updated next year to include the recently purchase Steed parcel and one of the two cabins available for public use. This will require drafting a new map and marking new boundaries. Peter said the cabin needs to be locked up and made secure. It needs to be cleaned and put to use; if it's not maintained, then there is a greater chance it will be vandalized.

The Board discussed Town Forest parking and whether the Town could work out a deal with Fish and Wildlife to expand the small lot at the entrance. Steve noted that the Town had already provided an in-kind contribution of Highway Department labor fixing up the lot. Peter said he preferred that Town Forest parking be on Town-owned land.

RE: Three Mile Bridge Park. Peter asked about mowing the small park on Three Mile Bridge Road that was deeded to the Town through a FEMA grant. Since the Town now mows its roads twice a year, Dave wondered if two passes over the field would satisfy the easement requirements. The Board agreed that was a good idea.

Shady Rill Paving/Route 2 Culvert Update

RE: Shady Rill Paving. Paul said the Shady Rill Paving project was completed with a total cost of \$29,195.08 in Town labor and \$57,296.02 in hired/rented/purchased labor and equipment. This will be offset by a state grant that will leave the Town with @ \$35,000 bill. Peter noted this had been a budgeted highway expense that would have been spent somewhere else if it hadn't been spent on replacing culverts and resurfacing Shady Rill.

RE: Winter Sand. Paul said the Town spends approximately \$70,000 - \$75,000 on purchasing and hauling winter sand from Wolcott. Peter suggested buying at least some of the sand from Middlesex, if possible, not only to support local businesses, but also to reduce hauling costs which could save about \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year.

RE: Route 2 Culvert. Paul and VT AOT inspected the culvert under the train trestle by Sticks 'N Stuff off Route 2 that the State says is the Town's responsibility to maintain because Town water flows through it. The good news, Paul said, was that the culvert is made of tile and is in structurally excellent condition, though it is clogged. Hartigan sent in a camera that got about 60 feet before hitting a blockage. The Town will need to vacuum it out. The total cost will be about \$1,300 for the camera inspection and \$900 to run a vacuum truck for four hours. After that, the culvert should be draining well for years. Peter said he still had his doubts that maintaining the culvert was solely the Town's responsibility.

Interview with Phil Hyjek

Currently a member of the Middlesex Zoning Board of Adjustment, Phil said that since his retirement he's been looking for more ways to become involved in Middlesex, so he became interested in the Select Board. He cited his experience as a former school superintendent in dealing with budgets and public employee contracts. He, too, is concerned about affordability.

Interview with Aaron Weed

Born and raised in Middlesex, Aaron served for a year on the Rumney School Board and was involved in the facility committee. Part of his interest in serving on the Select Board is in keeping Middlesex affordable. Also, as a chief mechanic for Stowe Mountain Resort, he is familiar with maintaining a wide range of heavy equipment and vehicles, which could be valuable in handling the Town's many road issues.

Setting a Special Select Board Meeting to Fill a Vacancy

The Board thanked Don, Phil and Aaron for applying and meeting with the Board and agreed all the candidates were outstanding. Former Select Board member Gary Lamell chose not to appear since he said the Board was familiar with him already. The Board will select an interim Board member at a Special Select Board Meeting called for that purpose at **11:30 a.m., Monday, October 17, 2016, in the Town Clerk's Office.**

MOTION: Steve moved and Mary seconded approving the minutes from the September 27, 2016 Select Board Meeting. The motion passed with Liz abstaining because she wasn't present for the meeting.

All orders were signed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

DRAFT