

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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, November 29, 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, Liz Scharf and Phil Hyjek. Treasurer Cindy Carlson. Budget Committee: Ruth Dockter and Barry Bolio. Conservation Commission Chair Lee Rosberg. Planning Commission Chair John Krezinski. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Welcoming of Guests/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm and welcomed the guests. The agenda was amended to include an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Update on Shady Rill Park Stewardship

Lee recapped a recent meeting between Mike Fraysier of ANR and the Conservation Commission re: the Town's possible stewardship of the small park at the bottom of Shady Rill Road. Lee said that Mike told the Commission it would cost approximately \$10,000 to maintain the park for the year-long trial period starting in 2017. (At a July 14, 2016, meeting, Mike and the Board had discussed letting the Town assume control of the park for a year, with an eye toward complete transference of stewardship thereafter.) Lee said that money would go toward paying a caretaker to open and close the park daily from the spring through the fall, picking up and removing trash, pumping out the septic and mowing, though Lee felt the mowing costs could be reduced by putting the job out to bid.

The big question was whether the Town would be responsible for undertaking the riparian reparations, i.e. shoring up and securing the bank along Patterson Creek, at a cost that could approach \$150,000. Lee said Mike suggested applying for grants from the Winooski Resource District. However, Lee wondered what would happen if the grant didn't come through.

The Board decided that a letter should be written to Mike asking for specifics on the agreement including a detailed long-term plan, all costs associated with this takeover and the Town's responsibility for the riparian repairs, if any. That said, Lee noted he and the Conservation Commission were in favor of controlling the park because it is so popular with those in Middlesex and neighboring communities.

FY18 Budget: Conservation Commission & Town Government

Lee said the CC is requesting \$5,000 for the Conservation Fund, which was largely depleted last year with the purchase of the Steed property for the Town Forest. The CC would like \$500 for various projects and expenses. Liz said she was loathe to put less than \$5,000 in the CF. The Board suggested that the CC increase the \$225 allotted for Project Implementation to \$725 and raise the Commission's total request to \$500. The \$5,000 Conservation Fund request would be placed on the March 2017 Warning as a special article.

The Board reviewed preliminary numbers for the town office budget. Health insurance figures would not be available until the next meeting, though they were expected to rise considerably from the previous year. Otherwise, most of the costs were expected to stay the same or even decrease since, besides Town Meeting, there would be no elections in the upcoming fiscal year.

Middlesex Land Use Regulations: New Revisions

John read a statement to the Board from the Planning Commission that, in essence, rescinded any changes made to Section 2 of the proposed, revised Middlesex Land Use Regulations. That section addresses permitted and conditional uses in various zoning districts. John said the Commission decided it would leave the controversial section as is while updating the Town Plan next year. Once changes were made to the Town Plan and approved by the voters, Sec. 2 could then be revised in accordance. He said the goal of rewriting the zoning regs was so anyone, no matter how little experience in this area, could read them and understand the requirements.

The Board agreed with the PC's suggestion and scheduled a new public hearing for 5 p.m., January 10, 2017, as required by law since the proposed regulations had been changed substantially. The Board thanked John and the Planning Commission, as well as Cindy, for three years' of effort.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded approving the November 15, 2016 Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

MOTION: Mary moved and Phil seconded allocating \$250 from the discretionary fund to Front Porch Forum. The motion passed.

The Board decided to deduct the \$250 request from the Montpelier Veterans Council for flags on veterans' graves from the discretionary fund and to credit that amount back to the Cemetery Commission. The Board also discussed a request from Cemetery Commission Chair Janet McKinstry that any unspent funds from the Cemetery Commission line item be rolled over at the end of every fiscal year into a new fund set up for stone cleaning, grave filling, etc. Phil questioned whether the voters would need to approve the creation of such a fund.

All orders were signed.

MOTION: Liz moved and Steve seconded entering Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The motion passed and the Board entered executive session at 6:40 p.m. Mary moved and Phil seconded exiting Executive session. The motion passed and the Board exited Executive session at 7:10 p.m.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

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