

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

MINUTES  
**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, October 16, 2018**  
**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 Phil Hyjek, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Roland Hilbert, Cynthia Martin, Don Hirsch and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order/Amendments**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5 PM. The agenda was amended to include a discussion about First Light's termination of webhosting service and Welch Park.

**Violation of the Town's Junk Ordinance on Daniels Farm Road.**

Roland Hebert said there are four or more cars and trailers on a property his house overlooks on Daniels Farm Road and requested the Select Board take the first step of enforcement per the Town's Junk Ordinance by issuing a letter notifying the landowners they are in violation. He said some of the vehicles – including a trailer – have registration stickers that expired 13 years ago. Liz asked if there was any other junk. Roland said there is a "disarray of debris," but that he can live with that. He is particularly bothered by a large, unused camper and called the situation a long-running problem that is getting worse. His attempts to work with his neighbors have been unsuccessful. Liz wondered if perhaps the homeowners couldn't afford to get rid of the vehicles. Peter noted they could be sold for scrap. Roland said he needs the Town's help

**MOTION:** Phil moved and Steve seconded sending a letter to be signed by the Select Board chair on behalf of the Select Board to Richard and Tammy Hoermann noting they are in violation of the Middlesex ordinance prohibiting Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles. The motion passed.

**Signage at Center, Brook, South Bear Swamp and East Hill Intersections**

Cynthia Martin, who lives near the corner of Molly Supple and East Hill roads produced a diagram showing several problematic intersections that could benefit from better signage since motorists often knock on her door looking for directions. She suggested a sign at the T where Center Road connects with South Bear Swamp to the left and curves to the right as Center Road before becoming East Hill Road after the Molly Supple intersection. That, too, needs a sign because people are confused where Center Road continues and ends. In the opposite direction, there needs to be clearer signs when Center Road splits into Brook Road to the left and continues as Center Road to the right.

Steve noted that the stop signs will be switched at that intersection from Center Road to Brook which will let motorists know Center Road continues. Peter said the Town tries to use only as many as necessary since they're often stolen or knocked down. They cost about \$125-\$500 per sign. The Board agreed better signage was a good idea, though, because of the cost and labor involved, the Town could not install them all at once. Cynthia and Roland left the meeting.

**Barnett Hill Road Scheduled Maintenance**

Don Hirsch, a resident of Upper Barnett Hill Road, said according to the 2016 Town Report, Barnett Hill Road was scheduled for maintenance in the summer of 2017. That didn't happen. There was no mention of this road in the 2017 report, either. Don wondered what had happened, especially since Notch Road was maintained instead, though the road foreman had promised he would address Barnett Hill before that. He said Barnett Hill is unsafe with excessive ditching, overhanging trees, narrow parts and blind corners. He questioned the Town's management skills, decision making, efficiency and accountability when it came to roads.

Mary asked how many people lived on Upper Barnett. Don said one. Peter said as a general comment the Town struggles with juggling which roads to maintain giving first priority to main arteries, not that other roads don't receive attention. Also, in the past two years the Town has concentrated on mud mitigation and improving Shady Rill and Molly Supple roads. Steve said minimal work was done on Notch Road, though he could not explain why Barnett Hill disappeared from the five-year highway plan in 2017. Peter said it all comes down to money and available resources. Don left the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report: Switching Health Care Plans**

The Board reviewed a package of four tiers of BC/BS health insurance group plans offered to employers of 100 or fewer employees through the Business Resource Services which was waiving the \$250 membership fee if the Town joined before November 1<sup>st</sup>. If the Town chose Option A, the Town could save money in premiums while employees would pay lower deductibles, though the current HSA would be eliminated. It was the best plan available through BRS.

**MOTION:** Liz moved and Mary seconded switching from the BC/BS Silver CHP to Option A from BRS effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The motion passed.

**First Light Discontinuing Web Hosting**

Phil said First Light, formerly Sovernet, would not handle the Town's domain-name service. He said RB Tech would take over that responsibility.

**Welch Park Fire Pond**

Peter said Carl Bailin of Hartigan noted the fire pond at Welch Park was 1/3<sup>rd</sup> full due to a faulty pump which was then repaired. In the course of addressing this issue, Peter wondered why the Town was supporting a water system at Welch Park that did not benefit the Town's only facility there – the MVFD, which drew water from its own well. He said this is an issue that needs to be addressed before the end of the year.

**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING**

At 6:15 PM, Peter recessed the Select Board meeting to hold a Board of Civil Authority meeting. The Select Board meeting resumed at 6:30 PM.

**Reviewing an Agreement Between the Town and the Middlesex School Board Re: Future Use of Rumney School as an Emergency Shelter.**

This matter was passed over.

5:20 PM

OCTOBER 18, 2018

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** Steve moved and Phil seconded approving the September 24, 2018 Select Board minutes. Mary and Liz abstained. The motion passed and the minutes were signed.

**MOTION:** Mary moved and Liz seconded approving the October 2, 2018 Select Board minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were signed.

Due to the November General Election on November 6, 2018 and other scheduling constraints, the Board decided to hold its first meeting in November on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 beginning at 4 PM. The following meeting would be as regularly scheduled, 5 PM on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:45 PM, Steve moved and Phil seconded entering executive session and to allow the Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant to attend in order to address personnel issues.

At 6:56 PM, Phil moved and Steve seconded exiting executive session. No action followed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A SPECIALLY WARNED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2018.

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PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

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MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

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PHILIP HYJEK

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STEVEN MARTIN

\_\_\_\_\_  
ELIZABETH SCHARF

DRAFT