

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

MINUTES
MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
5:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Select Board Chair Peter Hood, Vice-Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Liz Scharf, Phil Hyjek and Steve Martin. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Sonja Grahn. Planning Commission members Mitch Osiecki and Dick Alderman. Sue Bettmann recording for ORCA and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

Call to Order/Amendments

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The agenda was amended to discuss an email a member of the Bandstand Committee received noting that the committee must secure licenses from three entities if copyrighted songs are played during the summer concert series.

Ratifying Approval of Mapping Expenses

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded allowing the Planning Commission to exceed its 2018-19 budget by spending up to \$1,800 on mapping for the Town Plan. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the 411 for the preliminary 2019 Grand List and discussed the insurance bill for Welch Park. Peter signed the authorization document but said Carl Bailin, as Chair of the Welch Park Association, should approve the payment. The Board also briefly discussed the first 2019 property tax due date of August 20th and how to handle the probability that, due to school consolidation, the bills won't be ready by then.

Reviewing the 2019 Town Plan

In preparation of the Planning Commission's May 9th informal public hearing on the latest draft of the 2019 Town Plan, the Board reviewed the plan and offered suggestions to Mitch, the PC's representative. The Board agreed the charts need to be clearer and match the text. Peter pointed out that a chart identifying the Board of Recreation adjacent to the school should be identified as community property, not school property. North Branch should be identified as a cemetery. Also, there is no recreational committee, only a recreational director. The Board questioned a path from Rumney School to the village. Liz said she disagreed with a statement that the Town had no concern about vacation homes and temporary rentals when the increasing AirBNB business would be a zoning issue the Town will need to address.

Mary said the Plan should acknowledge the Board's efforts in 2018 to address Class 4 roads and the downgrading or discontinuation of five town roads that were essentially private driveways. Peter said a section on solar power should delete mention of 25% slopes, though he stressed the Town should have control about the placement of wind turbines. On page 57, eliminate the prohibition on Village curb cuts. Though people may want more paved roads, the plan should note the cost to build and maintain paved roads is prohibitive. Page 61 should mention efforts by the Central Vermont Internet to expand broadband among 17 rural towns, of which Middlesex is one. Peter suggested that Phil, a member of the CVI Board, write a brief paragraph on CVI's efforts. Mitch agreed that mention of an enhanced energy plan and updating zoning regulations are in the future. Mary questioned the "strategy" of banning strip-mall development around the interchange. She was included to agree with that statement, but feels there should be more community discussion because once it's in the Town Plan, the zoning regulations must comply.

Culver Hill and VT Route 12 Access Dangers

Resident Sonja Grahn asked the Board to address safety concerns at the intersection of VT Route 12 and Culver Hill Road. Motorists traveling southbound approach the blind intersection at a high rate of speed and there have been numerous near misses. Liz, who lives near the intersection, confirmed that those in her neighborhood have experienced frightening moments, especially those who are driving slow-moving vehicles like horse trailers. They would like to see signage, improved visibility (cutting trees?) and maybe a mirror positioned so those on Culver Hill can see over the blind curve. Sonja said she spoke to a representative from AOT who said to start with the Select Board. However, this issue really pertains to VT Route 12, a state highway. The Board agreed to address the matter with AOT. Mitch and Sonja left the meeting

*** Meeting temporarily adjourned at 5:43 PM for Board of Abatement and Board of Civil Authority meetings. Peter resumed the Select Board meeting at 6:35 PM***

Finalizing the Select Board's Goals

The Board agreed to pass over this issue until the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded approving the April 16, 2019 Select Board minutes. The motion passed and the Board signed the minutes.

The Board agreed to address the issue of copyrighted music being performed at the bandstand at its next meeting of May 21, 2019.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk/Select Board Assistant

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON MAY 21, 2019.

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

PHILIP HYJEK

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF

4:15 PM

MAY 9, 2019