

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

**MINUTES**  
**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**  
**5:00 PM**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

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**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Select Board Chair Peter Hood, Members Liz Scharf, Phil Hyjek, Steve Martin and Vice-Chair Mary Just Skinner by speakerphone. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Planning Commission Chair Sandra Levine, Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission member and Recreation Director Mitch Osiecki, Conservation Commission Chair Lee Rosberg, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Manager Gianna Petito, Putnamville residents Albie Borne, Kristin Hayes and Marge Dethloff. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order/Amendments**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. He amended the agenda to include recaps of discussions with Rubin Benett of RBTech and a meeting Peter and Road Commissioner Steve Martin had with members of the Highway Department.

**Shady Rill Park Update**

Gianna said the Winooski Conservation District received funding for the design phase re: improvements to Shady Rill Park. Those improvements include removing a sediment plug and mitigating bank erosion by adding access points, including one that's ADA compliant, to the popular swimming hole. Now, the District is working on an engineering design. Gianna said the project is in danger of being shelved without the Town providing a contribution. Previously, there'd been discussion about using the Road Crew to move an access road even though the park is entirely state land associated with the Wrightsville Dam. Per agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers, it must be maintained in perpetuity by the State. Road Foreman Paul Cerminara confirmed by text that the Middlesex Road Crew provides no maintenance.

Peter noted the Town has ongoing infrastructure problems exacerbated by a rainstorm on May 19, 2019, which caused at least \$150,000 in damage to Town roads. If FEMA does not chip in, the Town taxpayers will have to absorb the cost. The Town cannot commit to a contribution now, not when the Road Crew will be busy repairing the damaged roads, he said. Gianna left the meeting.

**Portable Toilet at the Hunger Mountain Trailhead**

Lee said the Middlesex Conservation Commission initially was receptive to Hope Crifo's request that a portable toilet be installed at the Hunger Mountain trailhead due to reports of human waste and toilet paper near the trail. About 240 hikers access the trail each season and it would cost \$400 to have a portable toilet installed and maintained during that period. The MCC was willing to make a contribution from its operating fund and asked the Board to contribute the remaining \$200.

Peter said he was concerned about an unsupervised portable toilet in the woods because it would be subject to property damage and vandalism. Steve said he's worked on construction sites where portable toilets fall into disrepair and he was not in favor of one at the trailhead. Liz said it could be a receptacle for trash and dirty disposable diapers. Lee said he now agrees and has been cooling on the idea since the MCC meeting. A smelly plastic port-o-let is probably not conducive to the hiking experience, he added. Mitch said he attended a meeting of recreation directors at the Green Mountain Club recently and learned portable toilets cause as many problems as they solve. He said he would look into possible signage. The Board agreed they were not in favor of the proposal. Lee left the meeting.

**Addressing Speeding in Putnamville**

Putnamville residents Albert Borne and Kristin Hayes provided signed petitions from their neighbors asking the State Agency of Transportation to address dangerous speeding on the narrow, winding portion of VT Route 12 which bisects their area of Town.

Specifically of concern are school bus stops. Kristin, who has twins in fourth grade and another child in sixth grade, says the bus makes two stops in Putnamville and turns around on Norton Road, the entrance to which is at the bottom of a small hill. She said commuters are speeding to Montpelier at the same time the buses are picking up children and she's constantly concerned a child and/or an entire bus of children are going to be hit. While the speed limit is 35 MPH, the signs are poorly placed so motorists don't see the reduction from 50 MPH until it's too late. She would like the speed limit in the Village to be 25 MPH. The Board agreed these matters need to be addressed ASAP. Albie said there have been numerous accidents in the area. Peter suggested asking the AOT for small changes. Kristin and Albie agreed one place to start would be if AOT installed a flashing solar sign that notified motorists of their speed. Liz and others agreed those signs helped. Phil, a former school superintendent, said children are a primary concern, especially since there are school bus stops along the road. The Board said it would send a letter to the AOT asking for a traffic study and improved signage, stressing that school buses made stops at these dangerous spots daily. Albie, Kristin and Marge left the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **Waiving the 8% Penalty for HS-122 Late Filers**

The Board agreed it hasn't imposed penalties on taxpayers who file their Homestead Declarations late and it isn't going to start now.

**MOTION: Liz moved and Mary seconded waiving the 8% penalty for HS-122 Late Filers in 2019. The motion passed.**

### **Welch Park Accounting**

Dorinda said the Town should change the way Welch Park Association bills are paid. Currently, bills are forwarded to the Town which pays them and then assesses the other members – Consolidated Communications and Hartigan – which pay the totals annually. The Town should not be acting as a bank. Peter agreed and would like the system changed before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1. Other members had no objection. The Welch Park Association president should be contacted and a meeting of the Board of the Welch Park Association arranged ASAP.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Steve updated the Board about the road damage from the May 19 storm. Unless there is at least \$1 million in damage statewide, no State of Emergency will be declared and the expenses will have to be paid from the fund balance. The repairs need to be paid now, however. Peter read an email from Paul listing the damage including the .5 mile of Macey Road that was eradicated.

The Board reviewed a proposal from RBTech to provide a Lenovo ThinkCentreM910s desktop computer for \$929 and/or a Lenovo ThinkPad T580 for \$1,269 with an optional \$219 docking port for the Listers. Phil said the biggest issue is that some Town computers, including the Listers', are still running the Windows 7 operating system that Microsoft will quit updating after July 1. Liz ballparked the cost of updating three laptops – the Listers, the bookkeeper and the treasurer's – at \$4,500. Phil agreed to ask RB for a proposal for three new laptops, a docking station, Office 365 for all the Town computers and labor.

The Board reviewed a Town Plan adoption timeline provided by Sandy. In order to be eligible for grants available in September, the Town will have to vote on the Town Plan September 3, 2019. In order to meet that deadline, Sandy said, the PC is holding its public hearing on June 19 and will immediately turn around a revised version submitted a quorum of the Select Board no later than June 24<sup>th</sup>. She said the Board may have to warn a special meeting to do so. Mary asked for a spreadsheet of changes the PC made to the Plan. Mitch said he would send one. Sandy left the meeting.

**MOTION: Steve moved and Mary seconded approving the May 7, 2019 Select Board minutes. The motion passed and the Board signed the minutes.**

The Board discussed the issue of having to purchase three licenses so bands can perform copyrighted music at the bandstand this summer. The Board asked that Bandstand Committee meetings be invited to the June 4, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting. Liz

noted that recently the Rumney School Board approved allocating \$93,000 from its capital fund to install a sound system in the school gym. The Board questioned if the motivation for this improvement was connected to the Bandstand's concerts that are held in the gym during rainy evenings.

Mitch asked what the policy was regarding the public's use of the bandstand for private functions. Peter said the Select Board needs to approve their requests on a case-by-case basis.

Peter said he and Steve met with the Road Crew to discuss the revised personnel policy. Though the members of the Road Crew wanted to be paid to be on standby during their off hours, a VLCT attorney advised Peter this was neither necessary nor common procedure. In a related matter, Dorinda suggested the Board send letters to the Road Crew when they get pay raises and also that Select Board agendas and minutes be posted in the Town Shed. The board agreed.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:50 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 JUNE 4, 2019.

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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

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ELIZABETH SCHARF