

<p>Select Board Members</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Hood, Chair</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Hyjek</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Martin</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liz Scharf</p>
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**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD**  
**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**  
**REMOTE VIA ZOOM**  
**Middlesex Town Clerk's Office**  
**5 Church Street**  
**Middlesex, Vermont 05602**  
**(802) 223-5915**

**MINUTES.**

**PRESENT:** Peter O. Hood, Chair, Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair, Members Steve Martin, Phil Hyjek and Liz Scharf. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Former Road Foreman Paul Cerminara. Vic Dwire. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes and the meeting was recorded by ORCA.

**Call to Order/Amendments**

Peter called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM. Peter welcomed guests. Liz asked to include discussion about the results of the planning survey under other business.

**The VLT Request for \$5,000 for Culver Road Conservation Easement**

This agenda item was removed due to email from Conservation Commission Chair Lee Rosberg that the VLT had rescinded its application.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Board discussed various fiscal issues including how the Town divided its Waterbury Senior Center allocation into two payments. Dorinda said there has been no word about payments to the WCUUSD. The Board discussed why the Town was over budget on gravel; Paul said part of the issue was a change of coding. The Town is in the midst of its annual audit and the auditor inquired about last year's overspending in highway budget. Peter said unexpected costs like major breakdowns occur and the most important thing is that the expenditures are accurate.

**Highway Report**

Steve, who is also Road Commissioner, said the crew has a more than manageable project list to prepare for winter and with Paul gone, he's now checking daily to make sure that's on track. The winter sand is all ready to go. Chains have been ordered. Tires are in the house and they even have stone for mud season. Paul took a tool inventory. The State is paying for gravel and trucking on Upper Barnett Hill to improve a Class 4 section of Town road which will improve their access to a State-owned parking lot for a Wildlife Management Area. After that, the crew will work on the parking lot at the WMA on Notch Road. Again, the State will be paying for the gravel and truck. Liz asked why the Town grades when rain is forecast. Paul said the weather is unreliable.

**Capital Planning Grant**

Liz said she will hear in January whether the Town will be awarded a grant that will aid in capital planning. The process will be managed by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and they will be paid to work with the Town to survey equipment and structures to figure out requirements for the next ten years. There would need to be a Capital Planning Committee. Liz said that on a recent survey, about a dozen townspeople volunteered to be members of the committee which would work with the CVRPC. There's also a possibility that Middlesex may not get the grant. However, there will still be people in Town who will want to work on this process. The Board encouraged Liz to reach out to those interested now. Liz noted it will affect the budget process coming up.

**Executive Session**

**MOTION:** Phil moved and Steve seconded entering Executive Session to discuss pending or probable civil litigation or prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) (e) and to address 1 V.S.A § 313(a)(1). The motion passed and Paul, Dorinda and Sarah were invited to attend. All other attendees left the meeting and the Board entered Executive Session at 5:45 PM. The Board exited at 6:01 PM. There was no action.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** Mary moved and Steve seconded approval of the minutes for the October 6, 2020 Select Board Meeting. The motion passed.

All orders were reviewed and approved via email.

**MOTION:** Phil moved and Mary seconded approving an access permit for Patrick Nelson at 325 Brook Road, 3.5 miles from Center Road, for improved sightlines. The motion passed and Paul left the meeting.

Peter temporarily adjourned the meeting at 6:04 PM

**MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
JOINT MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Select Board – Chair, Peter O. Hood, Vice Chair Mary Just Skinner, Members Phil Hyjek, Steve Martin and Liz Scharf. Planning Commission – Chair Sandy Levine, Members Mitch Osiecki and Theo Kenned. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Town Moderator Susan Clark. Dayton Crites, Senior Planner from Dubois & King consultants. Mike Pelchar of Planetary Matters. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman.

**Call to Order**

Peter and Sandy called the joint meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**Presentation of Walkable Middlesex Report**

Dayton presented Dubois & King's Walkable Village study which envisions sidewalks from Camp Meade, approximately a half mile down US Route 2 to The Roots Market at the corner of 100 B. The study was paid for by a planning grant from VTrans. The Commission has already applied for a scoping grant for a more in-depth study. Dayton said in a rural setting where residents and visitors are accustomed to accessing amenities by car, a walkable village creates community. He believes this can be done by installing sidewalks in the State of Vermont right of way on the southern side of US Route 2. Dayton said there is also a fair bit of support to build a river-walk trail from the dead end of Church Street to Camp Meade if the Town can obtain easements. The total cost of the project is ballparked at \$1.5 million, though there's a chance that grants would pay for a large chunk of that.

Peter asked if Moretown's sidewalk project is an example of what Phase I of this project would look like. Dayton said that was a good analogy. Steve raised questions about maintaining the sidewalk which requires special equipment. He asked if sidewalks could be replaced with bike paths which wouldn't require special winter maintenance. Dayton said that would involve widening the roads and the curves are an issue because would require more work. Mary questioned the study's estimation that ten people per hour between 4 and 6 PM would access these sidewalks. Sandy said people don't walk now because it's dangerous.

Liz asked how to convince Middlesex residents that sidewalks are key to the economic development of the Town. Instead of visitors like skiers driving through, they would stop and shop in the village. Dayton said in places where you can be out of your car and move around more freely it's more likely people stay around. And if they stay around, you can build a business there.

Mike Pelchar, a partner in Planetary Matters which owns Camp Meade and the properties adjacent and across US2, said people in the village and in town are interested in traffic calming. Sarah asked if the town could install a path used by pedestrians and bicyclists, like in Montpelier. To do that, the path would need to be 10-12 feet wide and there is insufficient space. Theo Kennedy said a loop between the sidewalks and river walk would create a sense of place.

**MOTION:** Theo moved and Mitch seconded adjourning the Planning Commission meeting. The motion is approved and the Commission members leave.

**Peter resumed the Select Board meeting at 6:47 PM.**

Phil said Lauri Scharf, an alternate to the CV Fiber Board, would be temporarily stepping in as the Middlesex representative while he recovers from surgery.

Dorinda asked if Paul continues to help out with the Town, should it be at the same rate of pay? Steve said for the moment, yes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

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

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE REMOTELY APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A SPECIALLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON NOVEMBER 11, 2020.

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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