

Select Board Members	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Hood, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Phil Hyjek
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Martin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Liz Scharf

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, November 2, 2021
REMOTE VIA ZOOM + Town Hall
Site Visit, Public Hearing and Meeting
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES.

PRESENT AT DOLAN ROAD SITE VISIT: Peter O. Hood, Chair. Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair. Members Phil Hyjek and Steve Martin. Road Foreman Shane Brickey. Residents Gary Lamell and Phyllis Tillinghast.

PRESENT AT PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING VIA ZOOM: Peter O. Hood, Chair. Mary Just Skinner, Vice Chair. Members Liz Scharf, Phil Hyjek and Steve Martin. Treasurer Dorinda Crowell. Road Foreman Shane Brickey and Road Commissioner Vic Dwire. Budget Committee Members Randy Drury, Mark Harris and Elias Gardner. Recreation Director Mitch Osiecki and Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman who was present at Town Hall. ORCA recorded the meeting.

Site Visit at Dolan Road

Peter called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM at the intersection of Dolan and Tangletown roads to inspect an 832-foot Class 4 section of Dolan Road the Board is considering downgrading to a Legal Trail that is 195 feet from the intersection with Dolan Road. The meeting was recessed at 4:35 PM.

Public Hearing re: Dolan Road

Peter reconvened the Select Board meeting via Zoom at 5:04 PM and opened the public hearing on the prospective downgrade of the Class 4 section of Dolan Road per 19 V.S.A. § 711. He relayed Gary and Phyllis's concerns that if this section is no longer maintained as a Class 4 road, water from the section might erode their driveways. Peter said he assured them the culvert in place at the bottom of the section would handle any runoff. Phyllis asked if other Class 4 roads in similar poor conditions might be downgraded; Peter said he told her possibly, but that for the moment, this was the only road under consideration. Peter said the section is impassable, that, in fact, a river from recent heavy rains was running through it. Liz said she doubted a highway equipment could fit in its narrow passage; Peter and Mary concurred.

Shane said he is seeking a downgrade because the road is a "connected segment" pertinent to the Municipal Roads General Permits (Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act) which was passed to prevent road erosion from contaminating Lake Champlain. At an April 20, 2021, Select Board meeting, Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore (who is also a Middlesex resident) said there are 300 road segments in town that do not meet, or do not fully meet, Act 64 standards and, of those, there are 18 "high priority" segments that need to be brought up to standard by 2025. This is one of those segments. Shane said if the road is downgraded to a Legal Trail, it no longer will be considered a connecting segment and will not have to be brought up to Act 64 standards.

Liz enquired about trail maintenance since the road is used by hikers and bikers. Peter said the Town may maintain legal trails, though it's not mandated. Liz said she was concerned about wash from the trail damaging the Class 3 section of Dolan Road; Peter said the water is diverted into the culvert. The public hearing ended at 5:18 PM. The Board took no action.

A letter from Rebecca Washburn, Director Lands Administration and Recreation Division of the VT Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation was read into the record. (Please see attached.) Because the hearing ended early and the Budget Committee had not arrived, the Board skipped ahead in the agenda to other matters.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Steve moved and Mary seconded approving the October 19, 2021, Select Board minutes. The motion passed.

MOTION: Phil moved and Steve seconded approving the minutes of the October 26, 2021 Special Meeting. The motion passed. Mary abstained because she was not in attendance.

MOTION: Phil moved and Mary seconded accepting Sara Birgé's resignation from the Zoning Board of Adjustment due to her appointment as Assistant Zoning Administrator. The motion passed.

MOTION: Mary moved and Steve seconded approving the Middlesex Conservation Commission's request that Adrienne Magida be appointed to the Commission. The motion passed.

All orders were signed.

Executive Session

Phil moved and Steve seconded entering Executive Session to discuss negotiations re: hiring a potential Highway Department employee as permitted under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (1) (A). The motion passed and the Board entered Executive Session at 5:23 PM. It exited at 5:36 PM. No action was taken.

FY23 Budget Workshop

Public Works Department

Shane presented the FY23 draft budget for the Highway Department (please see proposed budget, attached). Dorinda corrected a couple of mathematical errors: the proposed FY2 Winter Maintenance budget is \$61,880, not \$62,600. The proposed total spending (without debt maintenance) is \$743,468; Last year, the department's budget (without debt service) was \$728, 869. Shane said winter maintenance

increased due to the trucking costs. However, summer road maintenance was down by \$4,000, largely due to no spending on stone ditch lining or hay, mulch and netting. Peter asked about constructing a roof over the new fuel tank; Shane said there hasn't been time to address this, plus contractors and supplies these days are limited. Randy asked why the costs of culverts has gone down if there's a big paving project planned for Center Road; Shane said most of the culverts had already been purchased.

Dorinda said she was concerned not enough had been budgeted for equipment repairs since the department went \$16,000 over budget in that area from the previous year. Is \$2,000 enough? Vic said since the Town will be buying a new truck, repairs should not be an issue.

Liz asked about ash trees in the Town's rights of way that may be susceptible to the ash borer beetle and, therefore, will have to be removed. Shane said he needs to connect with the State on this and look into potential grants to cover the costs of tree removal. Paul suggested contacting Sorsha Anderson who started an inventory of ash trees when she was on the MCC. Paul also asked about what happened to roadside mowing last year; Shane said it was a "nightmare." Hoping to save money by using the road crew to mow, the Town rented a flail mower that broke so mowing had to be halted. The crew plans to mow two weeks in June next year and two weeks in August.

Randy asked about the "specialized services" line item of \$20,000 and suggested it be renamed to "subcontracted services," or something along those lines, to give voters a better idea of what the money is used for. Peter said it confuses people when they see subcontracted services because sometimes the money is used for other purposes such as renting equipment when Town equipment breaks down. Randy said he understood it as "fluff." The Board discussed this further. The workshop ended at 6:08 pm and the Budget Committee adjourned. Shane, Elias and Mark left the meeting.

Letter of support for Ice Rink Grant

Mitch said there's community support to build an ice rink near Rumney School. He estimated it would cost about \$5,000 to \$5,500 and some of the materials could be reused the following winters. He said the AARP offers six "place-making" grants of \$4,000 each year and that the ice rink might qualify as a winter place making. Mitch sought a letter of support from the Board for this project and said he will be looking at other organizations affiliated with Rumney for additional letters of support.

Peter asked if the labor would be volunteer; Mitch said yes. He asked how the \$1,000 to \$1,500 would be made up if the grant is only \$4,000. Mitch said he was looking into donations. The Board discussed the pros and cons of using Town land that abuts Rumney School. Liz asked if he would be billing the Town for time spent on this project; Mitch said he doesn't mind volunteering a little of his time. Peter asked where the rink would be built. Mitch said the school doesn't want it located near the playground, where the old rink used to be. One proposal is to install it on the tennis/basketball court which is Town land. The Board discussed whether that might harm the court; Mitch said it's already in such bad condition, he's not sure it would matter. Peter said he advocated building the rink on Town land so the Town could have more control. He asked that Mitch check back with the Board soon and apprise them of the progress.

MOTION: Phil moved that the Board write a letter of support in favor of a community ice rink, Steve seconded. The motion passed. Peter will sign the letter which is due November 12th.

Dorinda asked Mitch about the facility fund in next year's recreation budget.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted by 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 NOVEMBER 15, 2021

PETER O. HOOD, CHAIR

MARY JUST SKINNER, VICE CHAIR

PHILIP HYJEK

STEVEN MARTIN

ELIZABETH SCHARF