

**Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 18, 2015**

Present: Susan Clark, Ron Krauth, Tim Murphy, Janette Shaffer, Dave Shepard, Barb Whitchurch, Greg Whitchurch

This meeting of the Town Meeting Solutions Committee (TMSC) took place at Rumney School.

**1. New Voter Letter**

The first portion of the meeting was spent preparing for mailing the annual letter to new Middlesex voters.

**2. Remote Town Meeting Participation**

Janette reported that no one has signed up for remote town meeting participation (RTMP) as yet. Susan noted that the concept of RTMP has been added to the updated book about Town Meeting “All Those in Favor” co-authored by Frank Bryan and Susan. Janette reviewed the latest version of Middlesex’s RTMP protocol that was included with the January meeting minutes and confirmed that all of the proposed changes were made and that version is final.

**3. Childcare at Town Meeting**

To date only five children have signed up for child care during Town Meeting to be provided by Community Connections. This service has been advertised in the Rumney Notes and on Front Porch Forum (FPF).

**4. Town Budget Charts**

The preparation of the budget charts depicting the town budget that are distributed at Town Meeting is shifting from John Riley to town treasurer Cindy Carlson. Susan will contact Cindy about whether TMSC can help by making the copies.

**5. Chair Set-up for Town Meeting**

Susan will check with town clerk Sarah Merriman about whether help is needed in setting up chairs at Rumney School for Town Meeting.

**6. Town Meeting Meal**

Several Food Shelf volunteers have signed up to help with the meal served at Town Meeting that is a benefit for the Food Shelf. Liz Scharf will coordinate food preparation assisted by Susan Warren.

**7. Posting of the Colors**

A request was made to incorporate a flag salute with the Pledge of Allegiance at Town Meeting. Susan attended a Selectboard meeting where this request was discussed. A variety of opinions to this proposal have been expressed on FPF. Susan learned at a recent town moderators training, conducted by the League of Cities and Towns, that most towns do some form of a flag salute at Town Meeting. The outcome of the discussion at the Selectboard meeting was to propose

incorporating a posting of the colors. This may include both the United States flag and the Vermont flag.

If there is interest in a community discussion of a flag salute/pledge at Town Meeting the TMSC will offer to host.

Susan will contact former Middlesex resident Pat Allen to see if she would be interested in reciting the civil invocation at the start of Town Meeting.

### **8. Sound**

Janette will check with Sarah Merriman about contacting Bennett Shapiro about doing the sound at Town Meeting as he has done for many years.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard

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