

**Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 27, 2015**

Present: Susan Clark, Tim Murphy, Lauri Scharf, Dave Shepard, Barb Whitchurch, Greg Whitchurch

**1. Rumney School Board**

There has been some interest expressed in town to form a group to revisit the school renovation project. Greg has been in contact with someone who wrote in to Front Porch Forum (FPF) to offer the services of the Town Meeting Solutions Committee (TMSC) to facilitate a meeting. It seemed the group might meet on their own but this may not have happened. Lauri said the School Board is interested in hearing various opinions and in transparency in their processes.

Some ideas of the School Board on communication include the following:

- Using FPF regularly to report on their activities.
- Seeking additional ways to communicate to and hear from Middlesex citizens including face to face meetings when appropriate.
- The Board feels it has been difficult to get a good sense of the overall opinion of Middlesex residents.
- The Board is considering a forum, possibly in early September, on community educational values to get at what skills Middlesex residents want children to have by the time they graduate from Rumney. While there are significant State requirements and standards that schools have to meet there is still some room for individual schools to emphasize some unique aspect of learning. There is also an aim to align student skills as much as possible with what U32 is looking for. Greg suggested a presentation of values as currently defined by Rumney could be a helpful prelude to such a forum. How best to attract residents to attend such an event? Susan recommended personal invitations to some residents who don't have children currently attending Rumney. For the Board there is an issue of timing for this forum given the effort going into the facilities project. The TMSC can help to facilitate a forum if the Board decides to proceed.

With regard to the facilities project Susan offered the following suggestions on communicating with residents:

- Look at the ongoing project for opportunities to share progress on the project.
- Combine opportunities to view progress being made on the project with other events that are already bringing residents to the school.

On the topic of student outcomes/values Lauri noted there will need to be a means to measure whether the desired outcomes/values are being achieved.

Susan updated the TMSC on legislative initiatives regarding education including consolidation of districts and financing.

**2. Town Meeting Review**

It was unclear why there was the glitch with the town budget charts prepared for Town Meeting having the previous year's budget data. Town Treasurer Cindy Carlson is willing to do the budget charts next year. Response to the flag salute was positive. Unlike the previous several years this year there were not participants in the Remote Town Meeting Participation (RTMP) program. There may need to be more promotion of this service in future years if there may be residents who could benefit but aren't requesting it. Meals on Wheels could provide a means to reach residents who might be potential candidates as could other programs that provide services to Middlesex residents that have difficulty getting out.

### **3. School Meeting**

There has been some interest expressed at Town Meeting in returning to a school meeting, should the TMSC promote this question? Tim noted it may be worth waiting to see what comes of the consolidation issue. Current law requires that union school budgets be voted by Australian ballot.

Next meeting: Undetermined at present, revisit after the end of the legislative session.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard