

**Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 10, 2017**  
**6:00 p.m. Rumney School**

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

**1. Remote Town Meeting Participation (RTMP)**

Janette will check with Chip Hedler at Rumney School about the available phone jack. Greg likely has a phone cable.

Janette drafted a flyer advertising RTMP and presented for review. A suggestion was made to remove references about the type of technology used in order to be less likely to discourage potential participants who might be put off by technology issues. It was also recommended to include that someone attending via RTMP can participate in any votes during Town Meeting. Janette will take care of getting the flyers printed for distribution. Barb will check with and provide flyers for distribution to the following organizations: Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice, Central Vermont Area Agency on Aging, Waterbury Senior Center and the Montpelier Senior Center. Tim will check with the Vermont Army National Guard (VANG) about sending the flyer to any Middlesex residents that may be deployed. Tim can deliver the flyer to VANG although they may prefer to receive it electronically. Susan will provide the information in the flyer to be included in Rumney Notes. The flyer can also be posted at the Town Office, Rumney School and Red Hen café.

Janette proposed the question of whether Facebook streaming of Town Meeting might be in the future? Susan noted that unlike other meetings, at Town Meeting those in attendance are legislators and any Facebook participants would need to be confirmed as voters and be able to participate in real time.

Janette will check in with Bennett Shapiro once it's confirmed that he is doing the sound for Town Meeting.

**2. Child Care at Town Meeting**

Community Connections is prepared to provide child care as in past years.

**3. Town Meeting Dinner**

Liz Scharf will be planning and preparing the dinner.

**4. Transportation**

Transportation to and from Town Meeting will be offered – Dave is the contact.

**5. New Voter Letter**

Sarah Merriman will provide the list of names and addresses with mailing labels for new Middlesex voters. Susan will coordinate with Sarah.

## **6. Civil Invocation**

Sarah has suggested an individual she knows, who attended their first Town Meeting last year, who would likely be willing to read the civil invocation at the start of Town Meeting.

## **7. Budget Charts**

Sarah will provide a spreadsheet with the budget numbers to Tim who will prepare the charts to be put on chairs at Town Meeting. The timing may work out to also have the charts printed in the Town Report.

## **8. Solicitation and Displays at Town Meeting**

Susan has talked with Sarah who thinks a side room at Rumney could be used for any solicitation (e.g. Girl Scout cookie sale) and displays by town commissions or committees. Sarah and Susan will also be checking with the Office of the Secretary of State for more clarification on restrictions on displays in a polling place.

## **9. Postings on Front Porch Forum**

Janette suggested promoting the benefits and highlights of Middlesex's Town Meeting that differ from other towns that make it more accessible to voters such as starting later in the day, RTMP, and childcare.

## **10. Community Engagement Process**

The Town Plan is up for renewal in 2017 which could make it a good year for a community engagement process.

## **11. Approve Minutes of the December 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The minutes of the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented for approval. Tim made a motion to approve with a second from Barb. The minutes were approved.

A date for the next meeting was not set, it will be determined later. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, Secretary.