

Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2017
6:00 p.m. Middlesex Town Office

Present: Susan Clark, Tim Murphy, Janette Shaffer, Dave Shepard

1. Town Meeting Review

Susan noted that attendance at Town Meeting seemed reasonably strong based on the number of chairs that had been set up and the number of attendees that were standing. The discussion of the Meals on Wheels program was more contentious again this year. Mary Hood is planning to meet with the Waterbury Senior Center prior to Town Meeting next year to help them be better prepared to answer the likely questions from Middlesex voters. Tim may also be able to assist as he has experience from working with them two years ago. It might also be helpful to reach out to the Board of the Waterbury Senior Center to see if there might be a member who could assist in preparation or possibly even attend the Middlesex Town Meeting.

Remote Town Meeting Participation (RTMP) had one participant and ended up working fairly smoothly despite initial problems when Janette's laptop computer inexplicably crashed. Fortunately this happened before the meeting actually began and the equipment was working again by the time it was needed for the meeting. It was unclear whether the participant remembered to unmute his phone when it was time to vote. There was discussion about possible means to facilitate the voice vote by an RTMP participant including ensuring the participant has a short instructional sheet on how to vote or having the muting be controlled by Janette. This issue will be considered further before the 2018 meeting. The camera used this year didn't provide a very wide view of the meeting space for the participant; a better suited camera should be employed next year.

The microphones functioned well this year and for the most part people used them when they spoke. Use of the microphone is essential for an RTMP to hear what is being said. The microphones had fresh batteries this year and we should be sure to have them for next year as well.

2. Act 46 Public Forums

Susan will be facilitating two public forums for Middlesex residents to discuss and provide feedback about Act 46 and how it may effect Rumney School. The forums will be held on Saturday May 20th and Tuesday May 23rd. Small group facilitators will be needed for each forum.

3. Middlesex Town Plan

The Town Meeting Solutions Committee will likely be providing assistance to the Planning Commission in sending out a questionnaire to Middlesex residents to help inform the update of the Town Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard, Secretary