

**Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee
and
Middlesex Communications Team
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2020
6:00 p.m. Rumney School**

Present: Elias Gardner, Mark Bushnell, Tim Murphy, Nancy Reilly, Lauri Scharf, Dave Shepard, Ursula Stanley, Barb Whitchurch and Greg Whitchurch

Part 1: Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee

1. Remote Town Meeting Participation

Lauri has posted two notices on Front Porch Forum (FPF) regarding the availability of Remote Town Meeting Participation (RTMP). Onion River Community Access (ORCA) television is available to assist with equipment and could stream the meeting if there was interest. Streaming would be different than RTMP in that viewers could see and hear the meeting but would not be able to participate. There was some concern that streaming might reduce actual attendance. A flyer advertising RTMP will also be distributed via the following services/locations:

- Meals on Wheels
- Waterbury, Barre and Montpelier Senior Centers
- Berlin Home Health and Hospice

The flyer will be updated by Susan and Barb will distribute them.

2. Town Meeting Details

Two high school students have been lined up to present the invocation. Child care will be provided by Community Connections. Younger children have been selected to be microphone runners and there will be an adult overseer.

TMSC will likely meet again next winter to prepare for Town Meeting.

Part 2: Joint meeting of Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee and Middlesex Communications Team

3. What's Next Middlesex Committees

Susan reviewed ongoing efforts by the committees formed from the What's Next Middlesex event. The Trails Committee has recently become a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission.

Members of the Communications Committee were in attendance at this meeting. The Committee has promoted a community calendar through use of the calendar feature on FPF. A town newsletter has also been considered. Elias suggested a Wiki style online manual that could be edited by various people. Related ideas included posting a list of Middlesex businesses online and putting the Middlesex history book "Middlesex in the Making" online with the potential to update it. Susan is willing to work on an online manual that could update the old "Middlesex Operator's Manual" and there is a volunteer to work on design/layout.

Newsletter: There was interest in a town newsletter but a question of who would lead the effort and who would the audience be? East Montpelier's "Signpost" is a good example of a town newsletter. An occasional newsletter could solicit interest from contributors on FPF.

Operator's Manual: This had interest from both the Communications Committee and the Town Meeting Solutions Committee (TMSC) with an idea of merging to work on this project. Those interested in working of an update of the Manual could meet over the summer.

Participants agreed that it made sense for these two committees to merge, and to meet on an as-needed basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.