Minutes

Special Meeting of the Middlesex Planning Commission
Wednesday, July 10, 2024
6:00 PM
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, VT 05602

This meeting was conducted in-person at the Town Clerk's Office and remotely using the town's Zoom account.

Planning Commission Members
Sandy Levine
Elle O'Casey
Mitch Osiecki
Paula Otenti (remote)
Betsy Davis - Absent

Owen Dalton & Kaitlyn Fletcher, residents
Samuel Wooster & Hanna Blair, residents
Dave & Emily Smith, residents
Adam & Katy Preston, residents
Reuben MacMartin, CVRPC Transportation Planner (remote)
Liza & Randy George (Red Hen) (remote)

Call to Order
Chair Sandy Levine called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Roll Call
Planning Commission members Sandy Levine, Elle O'Casey, Mitch Osiecki, and Paula Otenti were present. Betsy Davis was absent. Other meeting attendees are listed above.

All participants were present at the Town Office except Paula Otenti, Reuben MacMartin, and Liza & Randy George, who joined the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Sandy Levine welcomed guests to the meeting and led a round of introductions.

Sandy made brief remarks explaining to everyone the purpose a traffic-calming demonstration project the Planning Commission is considering undertaking in the Middlesex Village. After sharing an overview

of the project, Sandy introduced Reuben MacMartin, a Transportation Planner with the CVRPC, who discussed the project in further detail.

A demonstration project is typically set up to run for three weeks. Reuben explained that the usual process is to measure traffic speed before setting up the demonstration project. After the project has been set up, traffic speeds are typically measured again two weeks after the traffic-calming measures have been established.

Reuben also noted that demonstration projects can only be run in areas with a designated speed limit of 40 MPH or below.

Some village residents asked questions about whether parking would be allowed in the area of the demonstration project. The conversation shifted somewhat to concerns about traffic congestion and parking issues in the village when Planetary Matters holds events at its campus.

One resident expressed concern that the demonstration project might be primarily for the benefit of the Planetary Matters /Camp Meade owners and tenants rather than for the village residents at large.

Questions were raised about the proposed timing of the event. If the Select Board supports proceeding with the project, the hope is that we can run the demonstration project in late summer or early fall.

Additional questions were raised about the cost of the project. The CVRPC will provide all of the materials used as part of the demonstration project. The town will be responsible for the installation and removal of the demonstration materials. Planetary Matters has indicated that they can provide some volunteer staff to assist with installation and removal of materials. The Select Board has indicated that the Town road crew is fully booked with road repairs and maintenance responsibilities. We should not anticipate the availability of any Town resources for this project. We may have to recruit some additional volunteer staff. We also may have to hire some traffic control staff (flaggers) to safely install and remove materials. We'll have to research the cost of this.

Residents expressed tentative support for the idea of trying to slow traffic in the village, although it's not clear to what degree the demonstration project under discussion will accomplish the goal of slowing traffic. The hope was expressed that the demonstration project will include clearly measurable metrics.

Sandy thanked all who took time to participate in this meeting and share their thoughts and concerns.

The Planning Commission will take comments offered under advisement and will discuss this project at our next meeting on July 17.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitch Osiecki
Planning Commission secretary emeritus