Minutes

Meeting of the Middlesex Planning Commission
Wednesday, October 16, 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 - Absent
Mitch Osiecki
Paula Otenti
Betsy Davis

Call to Order
Chair Sandy Levine called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Planning Commission were present at the Town Office. Zoning Administrator Keving Thompson participated remotely via Zoom.Mitch volunteered to take minutes.

Adjustments to Agenda
None

Minutes
Mitch moved to approve minutes of September 18; Paula seconded.
Vote to approve: 4-0.

Old Business:

Middlesex Village Traffic-calming Demonstration Project (update)
VTrans has been overwhelmed by flood repair projects and has postponed work on traffic demonstration projects until 2025.

CVRPC may be able to help resurrect this effort next summer.

Sandy reported that she has submitted an application to get this project added to the CVRPC's Regional Project Priority List for 2025.

Municipal Water System in the Middlesex Village (update)
Mitch will compile a mailing list of residents on Middlesex Village and the surrounding area. Mitch will coordinate with Sandy to get this mailing list to the Town Clerk so we can get this survey distributed to these residents.

Mitch also offered to reach out to Lynette Claudon, a staff member of the Department of Environmental Conservation, to see if she's would be interested in meeting with the PC to discuss ways her department may be able to support this project.

Rumney School Road (update)
Mitch has been in conversation with Chris McVeigh, who has polled landowners between Rumney and Wood Rd about interest in developing a walking path along the north side of Shady Rill Rd. Chris reports that most landowners have expressed enthusiasm for such a trail. He still needs to contact a couple of landowners. Mitch will follow up with Chris and report back at our November meeting.

Paula has been researching issues around signage identifying school zones.

One snag: it is hard to determine if the town has the authority to set a speed limit on a paved road in a school zone. Research continues.

A basic level of signage would identify:

- Start of school zone.
- Speed Limit.
- End of school zone.

This signage would be needed in both directions on Shady Rill Rd. We would also want some signage on the two nearby dirt roads (East Bear Swamp and Story Roads).

Total cost of this basic level of signage will likely be no more than $2,500. There will be some additional costs (and time commitment) if the town road crew is able to install these signs. We'll want to talk to Eric (Road Foreman) to see if this is something the road crew is able to help with.

Sandy proposes that we prepare a one-page proposal ahead of our November meeting. We will forward a recommendation to the Road Committee, who can then forward the project to the Select Board.

Neighborhood In-fill Housing
Elle has begun work on a housing survey. Mitch will reach out to Elle and assist in moving this forward. Elle is likely to be absent for a stretch due to flood-remediation work on her property.

Other
Kevin reported that he's off to a Planning & Zoning Forum on Thursday to learn of changes to state housing regulations enacted this past legislative session. Kevin believes Middlesex regulations are likely to be in compliance with recent changes.

Sandy also noted that the SB has authorized the CVRPC to update the town zoning map. Likely to be completed by year end (2024).

Municipal Planning Grant
State has not yet announced a deadline for submission of grant applications for next year.

Sandy will assist the Road Committee in submitting an application. (Towns can submit one application per year to this program).

Worcester Range Management Plan
Forest Management plan has been finalized by Forests, Parks & Recreation. The final plan seems to have addressed some of the comments from the Worcester & Middlesex Planning Commissions.

Updated Project List
Sandy has incorporated a few updates to this list.

New Business
Budget talks will be coming up. PC budget is generally stable and modest. We generally request a small amount of money for consulting fees and a little bit for printing/mailing costs.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 20 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

Mitch moved to adjourn; Paula seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitch Osiecki, Secretary Emeritus