Draft Minutes

Meeting of the Middlesex Planning Commission
Wednesday, January 15, 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
Mitch Osiecki
Paula Otenti
Betsy Davis

Call to Order
Chair Sandy Levine called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Roll Call
Planning Commission members Sandy Levine, Mitch Osiecki, Betsy Davis, and Paula Otenti were present.

All members were present at the Town Office.

Mitch volunteered to take minutes.

Minutes
Approval of December minutes.

Motion: Betsy Davis moved to approve draft minutes of Dec 18. Paula Otenti seconded.
Vote to approve: 4-0.

Old Business:

Middlesex Village Traffic-calming Demonstration Project (update)
No updates.

Municipal Water System in the Middlesex Village (update)
Sandy reported that we have received about a dozen survey responses thus far. Sandy will compile results and share with members soon.

Mitch recently attended a presentation from some folks at the State DEC who advise communities on issues related to municipal water & sewer projects.

One of those employees, Cristin Ashmankas, shared the following advice:

- Municipal water systems are more expensive to implement than municipal wastewater systems. A water system will require a full-time employee to manage the system.

- A water system requires much more frequent monitoring than a wastewater system; the WW system is relatively passive.

- The two types of systems often require similar development costs, but a water system is generally up to ten times more expensive to operate.

- Wastewater systems can be flexible. Rather than one system for the community, it's often possible to develop several smaller systems for clusters of homes.

It might be worth revisiting this, depending on feedback we receive from survey respondents. Folks from the DEC will be happy to meet with PC to share advice down the road.

Rumney School Road (update)
Money for traffic signs has been tentatively added to the Road Department budget. But the budget is fluid – will be finalized shortly.

Mitch will keep in touch with Chris McVeigh regarding a potential walking path along Shady Rill Rd.

Neighborhood In-fill Housing

Elle has passed along a survey she had prepared. We may tweak it slightly. It might be a good idea to distribute this survey at Town Meeting.

Middlesex Community Festival

Paula briefly discussed plans for the Middlesex Community Festival (formerly Energy Fair) planned for May. The Energy Committee hopes to involve more groups of town volunteers in this event (it could be a good outreach/recruiting opportunity for the various groups active in the community).

Municipal Planning Grant

Sandy is working with Eric and Zara to apply for a grant on behalf of the town Road Committee.

Also coordinating with the CVRPC, who will help write the grant application and can help with administration if the application is successful.

Looking at two ideas: 1)undertaking a survey of town road culverts (including those of landowners), and 2) developing a 5-year road maintenance plan.

Updated Project List
No significant updates to this list.

AARP Community Challenge Grant

Paula is planning to apply for this grant. Interested in acquiring a portable traffic speed monitoring sign.

The Flagship Grant awards grant amounts up to $25,000, which could cover this cost.

Sandy noted:

- PC will have to formally approve pursing this grant.
- Should coordinate with Eric.
- Also talk to Rueben MacMartin (CVRPC has considered a similar idea).

New Business
None.

Correspondence
Survey responses, as previously noted.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Feb 19 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

Betsy moved to adjourn; Paula seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitch Osiecki, Secretary Emeritus