Middlesex Road Committee
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 5:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Zara Vincent, Dexter Lefavour, Sandy Levine, Eric Metivier, Mike Klien, Marianne Mullen
via Zoom: Paul Cerminara

5:03 Call to order – Amendments – None added.

Dexter made a Motion to approve the minutes of 9/19/24, Marianne seconded

Dexter Motion to approve agenda for 10/17/24, Marianne seconded

Team Fix:

Portal rd is now open. Dirt Tech Working on Center rd then moving to Brook Rd. Crew is on McCullough tomorrow.

Guardrails being set on Brook, Old Brook, Portal, Shady Rill being reset.

Discussion about eroding asphalt near highway on Center Rd. Is it Town or State. Eric confirms it will be handled next year by town.

Driveway Right Of Way Culvert policy with changes was read by Marianne. Each member went through the verbiage. Changes were discussed and made and all agreed we were satisfied to present to Select Board.

Discussion around when and who is doing the upsizing of ROW culverts. The first one is to be installed by the homeowner's, then the town will approve and take over maintenance and upsizing if/when needed as determined by the Road Crew. Sandy asked who determines the appropriate size. Eric says that is on Town Website and the State has a chart that establishes standards vs. Minimum standards. Paul suggests that when new curb cuts final inspection needs to make sure new culverts are going in per spec. Potentially involving the zoning administrator and holding back a certificate of occupancy when needed. Zara asked Paul to look at new policy on website to confirm it is the best it can be.

Zara suggested that when we meet in November, we vote to skip December and come back stronger in January. We have done so much in 6 months. Duxbury posting that they wish they had communication for their community like we do. Select Board of East Montpelier inviting us to speak about what this committee has accomplished (That never happened, but maybe this summer we will reschedule)

Sandy and the other members agree that neighbors have appreciated the helpful updates and what they see the Road Committee doing for the town.

Team Funding;

Road Erosion Inventory / Better Roads grant discussion. Eric says Keith Cubbon will work up a schedule for us so they can start.

Portal Rd – need engineering for 200k slide off project we were invited to apply for from the 4 million dollars in pre-applications done this summer. Then will have the info needed to apply for the grant. Dexter to send a proposal and numbers.

Municipal Grant - Sandy and Planning Commission have match in their budget so we can inventory existing ROW culverts to pay for any upsizing needed based on study of existing ROW and other culverts not replaced by the 2 flooding events.

NOA Grant – Mike has won this so UVM can do LiDAR on the Great Brook. The flight will go stem to stern 11/14 & 11/15 and homeowners will be alerted. We will need permission to access some homeowner's properties.

Zara will post on FPF and ask Sarah (Town Clerk) to help contact homeowner's for permission.

Sandy says be careful this hunting season. Mike says don't be in the woods.

Eric and Zara have wrapped up FEMA spreadsheets worth Millions of dollars Discussion of details of dealing with FEMA and the levels of bureaucracy. Eric says when money is released, it is released to the State, then reviewed, then released to the Town. It is a long process, and we are already 6 million in debt from loans taken out to pay contractors to rebuild. Dexter asked if we had started on 2024. Zara says no, not until 23 is wrapped up but the spreadsheets should be easier this time.

Discussion around new goals and thinking ahead for 2025 projects.

Team Future:

Dexter presented an asset management template to Eric and the committee. Asked if this is something Eric wants? Dexter offered to volunteer his time to go rate the roads and asked about timing on when to implement. Eric agrees it would be helpful now and to develop a 5-year plan and the group all indicated to please move forward with doing the ratings ASAP before winter. Zara mentions FEMA says it will pay for software to upgrade our emergency management systems, but we need the info to input. Dexter says hopefully scores can go up every year. Zara asks Do we need software? Dexter thinks it would be difficult to maintain. Sandy asks does State have software? Dexter says they do not have asset management software for towns.

Dexter pointed out there are a lot of shoulders that need to be pulled in before winter. Eric confirmed it was all good material and would be pulled in before the snowfall.

Team Friends:

Zara referenced Team Future email John had sent regarding crowning and suggested that Team Friends could work with John to use that information for some Citizen Education about creating water bars and continuing to talk about respecting the crown and why. Mike suggests doing a spring training about clearing culverts and makes the point that the all the ditching and new work will be a great experiment. Ditches are deeper than they have ever been.

Sandy spoke about the Planning Commission's work in response to speeding concerns around Rumney School. Discussion followed about signs around the Shady Rill corner and to each side of Rumney school. Discussion around best sign options, why speed tables won't work and asked that the Road Committee supports the Planning Commission efforts to get this done when the time comes. Added to agenda for November meeting.

Hilton, Sandy and Zara discussed what they learned through Liz the Select Board Chair regarding having better systems to communicate with the public. Especially those who may have special medical or physical needs met in a time of crisis. E911 programs and Alerts discussed. Can we / Do we want to do it and who would be authorized user? Localized alert is an opt in and the Foreman, Clerk and SB Chair would need to take a 90 minute class. C.A.R.E. registry – needs to be updated. Discussion on how to communicate this information with community. Discussion to add this information to the planned survey. Discussion and decision made to launch the planned survey after the election.

Mike asked about the pre-applications and update on those grants. Zara said far more was requested Statewide than available, and was told they are prioritizing home damages, then slide offs. We have been invited to apply for only 1 we asked for. The Portal road slide off discussed earlier.

Discussion around how do we slow down traffic beside signs around school and around past sidewalk planning and PC discussions about way to slow traffic in the village.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm