Middlesex Town Road Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2024

Present:
Zara Vincent, Chair
Eric Metivier
Mike Klein
Dexter Lefavour
Sandy Levine
Susan Warren

Guests Present:
Madeleine and Eric Olrich

By zoom:
Hilton Dier

Eric moved the meeting minutes from October 17, 2024 be accepted, Vic seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Team Fix:
Eric reported that the fixing of guard rails has been completed. The paving on Shady Rill is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Sandy reported that the planning commission was talking about potential new signs near Rumney School to help reduce traffic speed. They are looking into radar triggered lighted signs that would let people know when they were speeding near the school. There was discussion about the efficacy of such signs. No one was sure about the success, or not, the residents of Putnamville had with a similar system installed several years ago. The Road Committee declined to approve such a proposal at this time,. Sandy then reported the Planning Commission wants to work with the Road Committee on developing driveway standards. Such a project may be fundable under the state's Backroads grants.

Team Funding
Eric reported that the town received $12,000 for inventory of hydrologically connected roads (i.e. those within 200 feet of a waterway) and $6000 for inventory work through VTrans.

Eric reported that the Select Board is somewhat concerned about the new draft driveway policy, that it would end up requiring the town to fix driveway problems above the town right of way. Sandy offered to send some language that could help address that concern.

Team Friends:
The groups is planning some outreach to residents in the Spring. Topics TBD

Team Future:
Dexter passed out copies of the road assets inventory. He has mostly completed adding the data he collected, e.g. road surfaces, crown condition, guard rails, etc. Other info could be added as needed such as daily traffic, eroding conditions, vehicle loads etc. Dexter says it should be updated annually and thinks November would be a good time to do so. Eric thinks this could be very useful.

Mike provided information on the Great Brook inventory. A team from UVM spent three days assessing stream conditions. Because another survey was done before the two recent flood events, there is good information to identify recent flood damage. Mike reports that some recent;y installed riprap has already begun being undercut by flood events.
The aerial images and ortho photos will continue to be analyzed. Mike hopes to get graduate students involved as part of their thesis work.

Sandy further spoke about the issue of speeding on the roads, especially near Rumney School. She wants to learn about what factors might cause people to slow down, e.g. narrowing the road, signage (including flashing signs), measured speed alerts. Some pointed out that non-car users (walkers and bikers) of the road may need to also be educated about staying safe. The Friends Team may wish to merge this effort with their planned outreach for the Spring.

Hilton is planning the next survey for after New Year. He will send a link to the Road Committee.

Next meeting is January 16 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.