First Middlesex Road Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2024
Middlesex Town Hall & via Zoom*
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

Present:
Select Board Member Zara Vincent, Road Commissioner and Select Board Member Vic Dwire, Chair Middlesex Planning Commission Sandy Levine, Ken Davis, Scott Gurley, Marianne Mullen, Dexter Lefavour, John Rahill, Steve Dennis,Richard Cowles, Susan Warren, Jessica Millard*, Zach Smith*, Hilton Dier*

Unable to attend this date:
Road Foreman Eric Metivier, Paul Cerminara,Steve Martin, Matt Dwire

Zara Vincent began the meeting by reviewing the Selectboard's goals for the Road Committee:

- Gather information about available grant sources for town road projects
- Develop a process for prioritizing road projects
- Ensure good contractor oversight
- Use road funds efficiently
- Identify projects or aspects of projects that don't cost extra money

Zara emphasized, and the group agreed, that the committee process is not meant to be a criticism of the road crew, the foreman or the commissioner. The road crew works long hours under difficult conditions especially this past year. The group acknowledged that the roads are under increasing stress due to recent flood events and warmer winters.

Participants each provided a short statement as to their interests, knowledge and skills that they could offer the road committee.

Motion At this time Zara asked if there was interest among the group for a chairperson. Sandy said it was not unusual for a member of the Select Board to Chair a subcommittee and moved to nominate Zara Vincent. ? seconded. The motion passed. Zara asked if anyone would be interested in being Vice Chair. Steve Dennis expressed interest. Zara moved for Steve to be Vice Chair. ? Seconded. The motion passed.

Hilton Dier offered to develop, as requested by the Selectboard, a survey of town residents about where the problem road areas are, especially with respect to traffic and

use. The survey will be posted on Front Porch Forum. Sandy Levine will work with Hilton on developing the survey.

Vic Dwire described the work planned for this year. The next couple weeks will be spent on grading all the roads and adding gravel where needed. Following that, grants have been received for 9 road projects addressing flood damage (mostly drainage and resurfacing). A private contractor, Dirt Tech, has been hired, and the work is 75% paid for with federal emergency funds (FEMA).

The current Town Plan includes a road plan, the committee members are encouraged to review this before the next meeting. (starts on page 61)
Click here to read the current Middlesex Town Plan approved by the Town's voters on March 1, 2022

Various ideas mentioned included:

- Reviewing how other VT towns have been addressing flood damage and repair, including grant sources
- Safe Roads for All is a potential grant source, towns need to develop a Local Road Safety Plan to qualify
- Notice of meeting Road Committee meeting summaries will be posted on Front Porch Forum. It was mentioned that the What's Next Middlesex website might be a good site to post meeting notes as well as other relevant information. Sandy will pursue this with Lauri Scharf.

The next meeting will be Thursday April 25, after that the meetings will be the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.