Apr 25, 2024 | Middlesex Road Committee Notes

Attendees:
Present:
- Zara Vincent, Chair
- Vic Dwire, Selectboard and Road Commissioner
- Sandy Levine
- Ken Davis
- Marianne Mullen
- John Rahill
- Steve Dennis
- Susan Warren

On Zoom:
- Hilton Dier
- Zach Smith
- Paul Cerminara
- Paula Kaimen

Guest:
- Bill Preis

Notes

Vic Dwire reported on road projects for this summer. Dirt Tech won the contract for nine projects using FEAM funding. The work will begin May 15th. The work will bring the road in these areas back to their pre-flood condition.

Hilton and Sandy reported on the town resident road survey to be distributed via Front Porch Forum. It will be a short survey, people will be asked which unpaved roads they drive on, how often and where the bad conditions occur. It was suggested to also ask where the roads are in good shape, and they agreed to add this question. The survey will be reported as anonymous data (e.g. addresses of respondents will not be included in summaries. Reported results will also include knowledge of members of the Road Committee.

A brief discussion followed about road safety, i.e. concern over high speeds. John R asked about any correlation between high speeds and road damage. The committee will take up this question at the May 25th meeting.

Zara reported that Sandy Levine has set up a Google site for the committee's minutes and other information. Information will also be available on the Whats Next Middlesex website, as it will be easier for people to find and for the committee to update than the Town website.

Ken Davis submitted the following draft Road Committee goal statement:

By 2030, Middlesex will have a viable and resilient road network that is designed, constructed and maintained to withstand changing climate conditions and citizen needs.

The following sub-committees were suggested by Zara:

1. Road expenses and data needed for decision making
2. Research what grants are available
3. Community relations/information

Sub-committee members would share info via email with less than a quorum to create a plan or plans to report to the full committee for approval on any recommendations and decisions. Zara will send info and ideas via email so committee members can indicate their interest in what committee they can contribute the most to..

Ken reported that the VT congressional offices often ask for funding needs to include as earmarks in the federal budget. We could be prepared to submit a request again for the next one in March 2025. (Zara submitted one to Sanders office March 2024). Submit funding requests to upgrade class 2 & 3 roads through T-HUD?

Steve talked about a federal “Safe Streets” grant opportunity that would cover road project planning, engineering and/or implementation. One requirement for grant receipt is to enact a Safe Streets & Roads for all Safety Plan. Keeping records for all road maintenance. Funding for more road crew to handle this?

Actions:

1. For the next meeting, Zara asked that members review her subcommittee suggestion and make comments
2. Hilton will send out questionnaire and post on FPF
3. Zara to send update to community on FPF

Next meeting is May 9, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Middlesex Town Hall or via Zoom

Meeting notes prepared by Susan Warren edited by Zara Vincent