Middlesex Town Road Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2024

Present:
Zara Vincent
Eric Metivier
Vic Dwyer
Ken Davis
Scott Gurley
Dexter Lefavour
Sandy Levine
Steve Martin
Marianne Mullen
Susan Warren

By Zoom:
Hilton Dier
John Rahill
Zach Smith

Guests:
Michelle Johnson

Vic Dwyre moved to accept the minutes from the May 9th meeting, Steve Martin seconded, all were in favor.

The nine sites to be fixed this summer by DirtTech are funded by post-flood FEMA grants. It was suggested that a list of these sites be posted on the town website so residents are informed.

Zara, Eric and Vic plan to look at additional problem areas, including results of the community survey, to evaluate and rank them for fixing. They will describe the history of the problem spot, a rough recommended fix, cost estimate, and priority ranking. This list is a required pre-application step for state hazard mitigation funding.

The group then turned to a discussion of Team Fix (subcommittee of the Road Committee). Hilton was asked to describe the results of the on-line community survey. He reported that 173 responses had been received, which he considered a very good response. Hilton will prepare a summary of the results for posting on Front Porch Forum. The most cited problem sites were:

- East Hill between Buldoc and Upper Sunny Brook roads
- East Hill near the Carr Cemetery
- Center Road between Zdon Road and town cemetery

- Culver Hill Road in vicinity of Pease Farm
- McCullough Hill Road at the very bottom

East Hill and Center roads were the most used, as reported in the survey. It was generally discussed by the committee that the most used roads (including school bus routes) were priorities for fixing at first.

Hilton offered to create a GIS map of the problem areas identified through the community survey and the knowledge of the road crew, and including the areas to be addressed this summer by the contractor DirtTech.

It was discussed that some of the roads gradually get wider, resulting in higher speeds, thus more road damage and higher repair costs, as well as safety concerns. There are weight limits on all the roads which are at times ignored. This issue was identified as needing public outreach as a beginning.

Dexter asked if the road crew is able to keep up with the annual road maintenance.
Eric said the answer is yes during an ordinary year, but last year with the flood they were overwhelmed with getting roads open again. Occasionally other issues come up, for instance there was a time this spring when all the town trucks needed repairs at once. Eric reports that most of his time is taken up by administrative work, meaning he cannot assist on-site on projects or maintenance. He has asked for admin support from the Select Board but not received it. He said he would rather have admin support rather than another crew member.

The Team Friends then reported on their work plan. The group members reported they will be working on assisting Hilton on developing the town road project and needs map available for public posting. They primarily plan to help keep community members more informed about road issues, and to receive and address questions and comments that come in. Other than Front Porch Forum posts, documents, maps, plans etc will be posted on the What's Next Middlesex website (whatsnextmiddlesex.org) as it it more efficient to use than the town website.

The Team Funds group plans to keep a running list of grant sources and planned projects on the What's Next Middlesex website.

Next meeting will be June 13 at 5:00 pm, Middlesex Town Hall, or (zoom link)

Notes prepared by Susan Warren