Middlesex Town Road Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2025

Present:
Stephen Dennis
Scott Gurley
Mike Kline
Sandy Levine
Zara Vincent
Susan Warren

By zoom:
Hilton Dier
Marianne Mullen
Jessica Millard

Meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

Zara reported that Zach Smith has left the Road Committee. Stephan moved to accept the minutes from November 21, 2024. Mike Klein seconded the motion, all were in favor. Mike moved to accept the agenda, Susan seconded, and all were in favor.

Team Fix:
Zara reported on aspects of the town road crew needs and plans. The town is planning to buy heavier-duty trucks as needed to increase their work capabilities and longevity. The garage/workshop needs repair to doors, a new furnace, and mold mitigation. The radios have been fixed.

The town is looking into asset management software to keep track of locations and condition and needs of infrastructure such as culverts. The software will be able to interact with the road management inventory Dexter has developed.

Team Funding:
Sandy thinks funding for a culvert inventory is likely through a grant that the Regional Planning Commission is applying for from VTrans. The RPC would administer the work and the town would conduct the survey. This inventory would include driveway culverts when they are within the town ROW.

Scott asked about possible funding to remove trees that fell into the stream after the recent flooding and that might cause an ice and debris dam in future highwater events. Mike said there is possible funding through NRCS for emergency situations. Currently the town has 4 such grant applications submitted. These projects would have to be located in the town right of way. There was discussion about volunteer work days in non-ROW locations but liability concerns and trees size limitations were discussed.

Team Future:
Mike brought the group up to speed about the Great Brook Assessment work underway. There have been many meetings and field days involving UVM, Norwich University, VTDEC Rivers Program, VT State Geologist, and engineering students. Mike is hopeful some graduate projects will focus on assessment and mitigation design on Great Brook. He reports that the landslide mapping and hydraulic modeling are ongoing. A few locations of stream bed downcutting have occurred even since the 2024 flooding. Mike says they plan to identify where stabilization could be effective and where it probably won't be feasible (affordable and/or effective) and therefore where transportation planning (road rerouting or removal) and or relocation of homes is a possibility..

The committee then generally discussed issues such as displacement of people in a future flood event, the need for continual and thorough communication with residents along Great Brook, residents' involvement as we enter decision making phases, and emergency plan in the event of future highwater events. Mike suggests involvement of this committee and the Planning Commission in coordinating good communication and public involvement.

Team Friends
The driveway policy has passed the Select Board, and a grant has been applied for an inventory of driveway conditions. The policy addresses conditions within the town ROW, although information sent to landowners could also be relevant beyond the ROW to help avoid future damage to driveways or structures. An outreach plan will be further discussed. The committee is looking for more information on how people get or want to get such information; Front Porch Forum, town website, workshops, NextDoor app were all discussed. Hilton said the next survey regarding roads is ready to go, and will cover some of these issues.

Next Meeting: 2/20/25, the road crew is attending.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55.

Submitted by Susan Warren