Middlesex Road Committee
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2025

Present in person:
Zara Vincent, Chair, and Select Board
Vic Dwire
Sandy Levine
Scott Gurley
Vic Dwyer, Select Board
Mike Kline
Susan Warren

Present via zoom:
Eric Metivier, Road Foreman
Ken Davis
Jessica Millard

Vic moved to accept the minutes from the 1/16/25 meeting, Scott seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Vic moved to accept the proposed agenda, Eric seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Team Fix:

Zara reported on the need for enlarged and improved town garage and equipment storage. The Select Board is looking at whether to fix/improve the currrent garage or build a new one. The existing building has structural issues and does not provide enough indoor space for working on equipment especially during the winter months.

New asset management software has been included in the town budget for next year. It will allow tracking of many town road assets in one location, including road infrastructure (e.g. equipment, culverts including driveway culverts guard rails, road widths, ditch condition and makeup, signs etc.) as well as needs. This data base will also be compatible with the database recently developed by Dexter.

There was some discussion about driveway culverts. If not properly maintained they can become clogged or damaged, leading to increased runoff onto and damage to the town road. For instance, plow piles from driveways may end up on top of driveway culvert entrances and exits, thus inhibiting flow through the culvert during thaws. These issues will be covered in an outreach piece being developed by Team Friends. The committee is looking to increase land owner knowledge about these issues to reduce impact on town roads.

Team Future

Mike talked about an upcoming meeting planned for March 3 with residents of Great Brook Road. The purpose of the meeting is to acquaint them with all the various ongoing and

previous studies and or projects that have occurred along the brook and solicit any additional information the residents may have about areas of repetitive damage or stabilization work. A map has been prepared showing known location of such information for their review. Mike will also prepare a handout listing all the different organizations (e.g. UVM, USGS, State of Vermont) that have been involved over the recent decades in studying and attempting to stabilize the stream bed and banks.

Team Funding

FEMA has not fully reimbursed the towns for funds spent recovering from both the ‘23 and ‘24 floods. Middlesex spent $5,700,000 and $3,402,000 respectively recovering from these floods but so far has only been reimbursed $1,800,000. This is a significant debt for the town.

Team Friends

The group has been working on outreach materials for town residents regarding driveway construction and maintenance. One goal is to educate residents on how their driveway condition can effect town roads. The team wants to suggest ways landowners can divert water from their property away from town roads where possible. Eric expressed concern about getting lay people involved in runoff management, in case someone inadvertently makes a problem worse. The team also wants to recognize people who have helped the town during storm events.

The next meeting is March 20, 2025 at 5 pm.