Middlesex Road Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 20 2025

Present:
Eric Metevier
Sandy Lavine
Zara Vincent
John Rahill
Susan Warren

By Zoom:
Paul Cerminara

Guests:
Greg and Barb Whitchurch

Eric M moved to accept the proposed agenda, Susan W seconded and all were in favor.

Zara reported the Steve Dennis has resigned from the committee.

Team Friends
The Friends committee will participate in the Middlesex Energy Fair on May 17, at Camp Meade. Zara wants to use some of John R's ideas from his list of questions and issues. We can use the 3 panel display boards owned by the Town. Jessica Millard from the Friends Committee should be the contacted, as that sub-committee is planning on setting up information at the Fair. Mariane Mullen should also be contacted. Susan will get in touch with Jessica to arrange coordination.

Hilton D's survey results will be re-posted on Front Porch Forum. The next survey could take place after the Energy Fair making use, in part, of the questions and comments we collect there. The planning grant Sandy L is applying for a state planning grant looking in part at addressing impacts from private driveway runoff and culverts. It includes conducting two town resident surveys. The parts of driveways that are under town's control (i.e. within the town ROW) versus what owners might do above that to reduce impact on the town roads needs to be clarified and presented. Paul C notes that walking in a town rock-lined ditch can be dangerous and he wants people to know that portion is the town's responsibility. Eric M said the road crew keeps an eye out for clogged driveway culverts.

Team Fix
Eric reports that so far mud season road problems are "not terrible." The town is currently filling potholes on the paved portion of Shady Rill. They hope to pave it as much as possible this summer, but funding needs to be verified. The paving work is mostly contracted out although town crew members might assist . Paul asked about the mud season mitigation work on dead-end roads, as in the 5-year Road Plan,(the thru-way roads having been completed). The work includes installing box culverts (allow more water flow), base work and resurfacing as needed. This is mostly work that needs to be done in the summer. Eric says it is still the plan to do this work this summer.

Team Future
Mike Kline provided an update on the assessment of Great Brook instability and flooding issues. He is working on a $25,000 BRIC grant application. The grant would allow them to collect the additional information needed on the brook to create a 3D model (Norwich Univ will assist) of the flow so that potential projects can be identified. In particular, bedrock and hard armoring installed previously needs to be identified and mapped. Mike is planning a meeting for Great Brook residents to come and look at a detailed map of the Great Brook channel and surrounding land to see if they have any additional knowledge of issues and hard armoring that can be added to the map and model. This model will allow the identification of chronic problem areas with public and resident safety in mind, as well as potential solutions that could be successful.

Someone asked Mike about removing all the trees that have fallen in or are hanging over the Brook. He said the tree trunks should be left there but large root balls could be removed. Unfortunately he does currently know of anyone who can do this work. Vtrans used to, but no longer does, due to much criticism of their techniques.

Paul asked Eric whether concerns over emerald ash borer in the road ROWs is still being looked at. He noted that some towns are proactively removing ash trees from the town ROWs. Eric said he knows that WEC is addressing this issue (which might involve removal of roadside trees), but doesn't think the town currently has the capacity to do so. It was noted that a variety of approaches can be taken, such as monitoring for EAB presence, looking for tree damage, and treatment of an infected tree.

Zara asked the group to email her with ideas for Team Future.

Team Funding
Sandy L provided information on the state Planning Grant for which the team has applied. It includes an inventory of driveway culvert location and condition and a survey about Middlesex residents want for their roads. The town budget sets aside $50,000 to be used as local match for all town grant funded projects. She points out that the grant funds the state has are partially federal funds and we don't yet know what might happen to these funds under r\the new administration.

Next meeting is April 17 at 5:00 pm Middlesex Town Hall.

Notes prepared by Susan Warren