Middlesex Town Road Committee
Date: August 21, 2025

Present:
- Zara Vincent
- Sandy Levine
- Susan Warren
- Ken Davis
- Mike Kline
- Eric Metivier
- Michelle Johnson
- Road Crew member Ben...

Present via zoom:
- Marianne Mullen (MarianneVT@gmail.com)
- Hilton Dier (hiltondier@gmail.com)
- Bill Preis
- (couple from Great Brook Road)

Absent but emailed:
- Jessica Churchill
- Dexter Lefavour
- John Rahill

5pm - Eric motioned that the Agenda for August 21, 2025 approved. Mike seconded it and all were in favor. Meeting notes from the May meeting are not yet available. (no meeting June & July)

Zara began the meeting by asking someone to be a co-chair. She has been very busy, especially with the on-going grant and budget issues related to the pas few years of extensive road damage and the subsequent state and federal grant processes. Paul Cerminara was nominated by Eric and Sandy seconded. All were in favor.

Team Fix

The town now has a refrigerator in the town garage donated by a new resident, but many other building problem issues remain. There is great need for reliable radios to enable communication between members during a work day. They often are using their personal cell phones, but reception in spotty in many town locations.

Road projects planned for this summer have been proceeding.

- culvert replacements on Center 2x, South Bear Swamp, Notch and Brook roads done. Molly Supple to be done next week

Question was asked about the issue of people parking in the winter along road sides and in truck turn-around areas, notably at dead ends. Eric said he usually handles it by leaving a note on the car explaining the issue; he feels this largely is effective, but it more people will eventually leave another car. For the time being he plans to continue with this approach. The SB would need to enact a parking ban and then be prepared to enforce it with towing, which may not be a workable procedure for the town.

Eric reported that the town is on track with repairs the crew is able to implement themselves this summer. He'd like to see another public survey next spring to see if repairs have reduced complaints.

He reported that he has been using the road data base created by Dexter Lefavour, and reports that is working well and helps quite a lot, including with grant writing. Appreciation is extended to Dexter for this work!

Progress has been made getting FEMA reimbursements for flood damage repairs. The town has been recently reimbursed for four projects and there are indications the another five are in the works. Damage to town roads was roughly $6 million each for both of the storms in 2023 and 2024. Damage in these two years to Brook Road alone accounted for $2.5 million. The town can apply for administrative and loan interest costs once funds are received.

There are still 4 projects left to fix the 2024 road repairs needed, as well as grant applications to install guard rails at some of the steep repair sites. Eric said the town will be applying for state grants for repairing or replacing some culverts. Usually they need to be replaced with a larger culvert to handle increased flows.

Ken asked about the length of time a new application of gravel lasts before it needs more. Eric said it usually is good for about 2 years, then it might need some work or supplementing.

Zara reported that at a recent county meeting of town officials that Middlesex was the envy of other towns due to the cooperative and successful work of this Road Committee,the large number of engaged members and retention and continuation of that engagement. This is due to having professionals who are experts in their fields coming together for the embetterment of their Town. It also doesn't hurt that we enjoy our time together. The committee applauded, in particular, the hard work and long hours of Zara and Eric through these recent very challenging years.

Team Future
Mike reported on further investigations into stream and bank conditions along Great Brook. He walked the length of the brook with Ken Davis to begin identifying possible future assessments and projects. He looked at places where bank failure might occur in the near future and places that seemed relatively stable for the timebeing. Of concern are both bank stability and downward streambed erosion. A USGS employee accompanied them with a handheld radar device that detected the depth to bedrock. Where bedrock is just below the streambed, bank stability isn't as threatened. Where, however, the bedrock is deep, we can expect more down cutting from future heavy storms. Likewise, bank stability is highly variable. In addition some floodplain creation and/or velocity reducing projects will be assessed.

Bill Preis asked about posting Mike's 7/14/25 report on his assessments so far on What's Next Middlesex. Zara will make that happen.

Two residents from Brook Rd called in to ask that Brook Rd be changed from a through way to two dead end roads. They were concerned that the traffic was damaging the road so as to make it more susceptible to damage. They also mentioned that they had safety concerns about people driving too fast on the road. Mike said that the traffic has little impact on the stream processes. Zara said that the town needs alternate routes to deal with emergencies and projects that require shutting the road to through traffic, and that such a change was unlikely. She also pointed out there are complaints about cars driving too fast from all over town.

Team Funding
The town received and Municipal Planning Grant for $14,735 to do an inventory of culverts so their condition and replacement schedule can be tracked. The Town will know if it will receive up to

$75,000 of State appropriated funds released by the General Fund balance in July of this year. We were told we would know by early September.

Team Friends
Marianne said that the town needs an emergency communication plan to provide information to landowners in the event of a storm with potential to cause damage. Residents have previously been surveyed about how they currently can receive such information. The Friends committee plans to collect further information from residents could best receive such information in an online survey next Spring. *Ken?* mentioned that the New Yorker recently had a good article about flood warning systems and will send it to the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30. Next meeting is September 15.