Middlesex Town Road Committee Minutes

September 18, 2025

Present:

Zara Vincent
Eric Metevier
Dexter Lefavour
Mike Kline
Susan Warren

By zoom:

Hilton Dier
Ken Davis

It was noted that the committee does not have a quorum.

Eric moved and Mike seconded the approval of the minutes from 8/21/25. All were in favor and minutes were approved.

Ken would like to add to the agenda the possible creation of a "flood warden" position in town. The addition was approved.

Team Fix:

Eric listed the recent projects undertaken by the road crew. They have begun the fall grading. They replaced a culvert at Shady Rill - Govt. Hill intersection in preparation for paving in early October. They have removed pavement from the bottom of McCullough Hill Road also in preparation for repaving.

The bridge at the bottom of McCulllough Hill is in need of repair as large trucks (e.g. fuel deliveries) will not use the bridge in this condition. The town will contract out this work and anticipate this occurring relatively soon.

The town is awaiting the new yield signs for the intersection of Brook and Center Road. Speed limit signs for the vicinity of Rumney School have also been ordered.

Someone asked about the radar speed signs installed at either end of Putnamville, which currently are not working. Eric reports they need to remove some tree branches as they rely on solar power. Eric reports that 5-8 road name signs are missing across town. They suspect local vandals.

Eric reported that he makes good use of the new Asset Inventory data base recently created by Dexter Lefavour. He reports it has made keeping track of and planning projects much easier. The committee gave Dexter a round of applause.

Team Future:
Zara is looking for about 15 volunteers to be part of a Facility Improvement Team which would look at town infrastructure including a renovated or new Town Hall and improvements needed to the town garage.

Mike Kline will be meeting with Keith Cubban from Ctrl VT Regional Planning Commission to discuss possible grants to continue assessing Great Brook. Mike is also speaking with UVM to see if they might be interested in conducting some assessment projects on Great Brook.

Regarding the Great Brook assessments and possible flood mitigation projects, Hilton asked if the large interlocking jack-shaped concrete energy-dispersing structures could be used in Great Brook. Hilton had recently seen a video showing them in use on the Scottish coastline. Mike said they could be considered after the stream corridor assessment is complete, but he also said they might require a greater width than is present in the Great Brook stream. He explained that the brook is trying to remake its corridor wider as flood events become more severe and frequent. Once the initial assessments are complete, the town plans on seeking additional funding for modeling the stream flow in order to identify the projects that could prevent or avoid property damage. Mike notes that, for instance, armoring a bank in one location can simply transfer the damage to another downstream location, so the whole corridor needs to be looked at altogether.

Dexter proposed that the committee get involved in the capital budget planning process. This committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Zara will send at current draft of the budget to the Road committee.

Ken Davis brought up the idea of establishing a "flood warden" position that could increase awareness and knowledge about potential flood damage and emergency protocols among residents. There is some thought that FEMA maps might currently under estimate the potential for flood damage. Ken thinks the town needs to decide what role the town should play in informing residents where threats exist and notifying them in emergencies. Dexter pointed out that "big-picture" media coverage is good. For instance, in the event of flash flooding there might be a state or county-wide alert, but how should residents plan for or react to a localized flash flood such as occurred on Great Brook?

The town has an Emergency Manager position (volunteer?) which is currently held, by default, by Liz Scharf. *Some mention of Roger Hill and an emergency team?*

More discussion with Team Friends on this topic is proposed. Is there a role for volunteers in flood warning/outreach? Could volunteers help with certain tasks such a culvert inspections?

Team Funding

The town secured a Better Roads grant for a Shady Rill project. The town planning commission helped the Road Committee to receive a Municipal Planning grant to inventory culverts size, location and condition.

Next meeting is October 16, 5:00 pm, Town Hall.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:55.