Select Board Members
X Liz, Scharf, Chair
_Randy Drury, Vice Chair
X Vic Dwire
X Peter O. Hood
X Zara Vincent

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
Thursday, July 11, 2024
EMERGENCY MEETING
Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom*
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Liz Scharf*, Select Board members, Peter Hood*, Vic Dwire* and Zara Vincent* (Chair of the Town Roads Subcommittee). Town FEMA Coordinator Steve Martin. Town Emergency Manager Steve Dennis and Honi Bean Barrett*. Select Board Assistant Sarah Merriman took the minutes. (*indicates attended via Zoom)

Call to Order

Liz called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Guests were welcomed.

July 10, 2024, Flood Update

Steve Martin said he and Eric inspected most of the roads thought to be impassable. Brook Road is passable, though narrow. Ditto for Zdon and Center roads. The road crew is heading to Notch Road tomorrow. Dirt Tech is moving equipment to Lower Sunny Brook to begin repairs tomorrow. The first culvert is washed out and impassable. Dolan is dangerous due to a bad drop off. Chase is open. Eric will move the equipment onto Macey Road and begin work tomorrow, especially at the end that's washed out. Wood Road took on quite a bit of damage, though its passable. Most of the road held up wonderfully and a house that has historically been flooded, was not.
The goal is to get all the town roads passable for emergency vehicles and local residents by tomorrow. The road crew will work Saturday if it can't be done by Friday. The town will have to install a couple of driveway culverts since people living there can't get out of their homes.
After this weekend, Eric and Steve Martin are going to come up with a game plan. Steve emailed the current FEMA project manager who said to go ahead, take lots of photos and make the repairs. The question is what to do with Dirt Tech which was awarded a contract last spring to do permanent repairs from the 2023 flood and is working on those repairs now. Steve Martin noted the dynamics of the roads have changed.
Liz asked about Dirt Tech's billing; Steve Martin said Dirt Tech will bill the 2024 flood repairs separately. Peter asked if this will be reimbursed by FEMA. It was agreed that only if Middlesex is declared a disaster area. Zara said she's been telling people to go on VT211 and list their damages.
Liz discouraged people from doing work on their driveways and expecting the town reimbursement. However, people should document their own damage with photos and receipts for the work and submit claims under their own FEMA reimbursement.
Steve Dennis said no one has reached out to open the shelter.
Liz asked about marking with safety cones. Dirt Tech went back to get more cones and barrels, Steve said, though a lot of roads will be open by the weekend. The roads are not passable at 40 MPH.
Zara said she cancelled road crew interviews scheduled for tomorrow.
Steve Dennis said beaver dams in the town forest may have contributed to massive flooding on Notch Road. He suggested removing the beaver and draining the dams.
Liz asked about the pond on Zdon Road. No one had heard of the walls being breached.

Authorizing WEC to Install Poles in the Town's Right-of-Way on Brook Road

The Board reviewed an email from Brian Wilkin, Utility Field Technician with Washington Electric Cooperative, asking for permission to relocate three poles on the western side of Brook Road since the poles on the stream side went into the water during the flood. The poles will be near 434 Brook Road. The Board discussed this and also what if WEC needs to put more poles in the town's right of way on that road, agreeing to give the utility permission to do what it has to do to keep the poles on dry land.
MOTION: Peter moved and Zara seconded WEC's emergency request to put Washington Electric Cooperative poles in the Town's right of way along Brook Road. The motion was approved.

Liz said Community Bank is extending the 2023 flood loan for 150 days. She suggested holding a Special Town Meeting so people can process the latest flood and the Town's response and future response. The Board agreed it was a good idea; Honi Bean offered to help.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A SPECIALLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON JULY 23, 2024.

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LIZ SCHARF, CHAIR

_____N/A_____
RANDY DRURY, VICE CHAIR

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VIC DWIRE

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PETER HOOD

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ZARA VINCENT

DRAFT