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

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom*
Middlesex Town Clerk's Office
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Liz Scharf, Chair. Members Vic Dwire, Peter O. Hood and Zara Vincent, who is also the FEMA Coordinator and Chair of the Town Roads Subcommittee. Planning Commission Chair Sandy Levine. Road Foreman/MVFD Chief Eric Metivier. MVFD President Jeff Koonz and firefighter Brendan Lareau. Town Roads Subcommittee member and EMC Steve Dennis*. The meeting was recorded by ORCA and 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.
MOTION: Peter moved and Vic seconded approving the minutes of the February 4, 2025, regular meeting. The motion passed and the minutes were signed by those members present.
MOTION: Vic moved, and Zara seconded approving the agenda for the February 18, 2025, regular meeting. The motion passed.

VTrans Demonstration Project Approved

The Board reviewed material for a traffic-calming demonstration project that would be set up mostly in front of Camp Meade sometime between April 1 and December 1 of 2025 and last only a month, with it likely starting in May. The project would involve temporary "sidewalks," a crosswalk and narrowing the road with bump outs to slow traffic. Sandy said the project is the result of prior studies the Planning Commission conducted with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission when the PC was looking at ways to add sidewalks. Since the demonstration project would be in VTrans's right of way on US Route 2, the Select Board needs to pass a resolution approving going forward with this project.
Vic asked about cost. Sandy said some "staff" might be required to set up the equipment needed to mark a temporary crosswalk and barriers to prevent cars from parking along US Route 2. While CVRPC has the barricades and a certified flagger, the Road Crew might have to set them up. Peter asked if village merchants have been consulted. Sandy said she's spoken with Camp Meade folks and noted this is a draft. However, if the demonstration project proceeds, that will be the next step.
Vic said he's spoken to people about sidewalks and they think it's crazy because the Town will have to plow and maintain them. Sandy stressed that this is a demonstration project to see how it will function. Sandy noted a previous design and scoping study won awards and said the PC has received a lot of feedback from businesses and residents. She said people feel like they take their lives in their hands when they walk through this town; it's dangerous when vehicles are moving through the village at 50 MPH.
Liz asked if the demonstration project will correspond with other events in town. Ideally, it would be good when there are concerts. Liz suggested setting up the project during the height of summer to see if it has an impact.
Steve said the Town Roads Subcommittee was formed in part to relieve ease the burden on the Road Crew. He wanted to know whose idea it was to burden them further without giving them additional resources. He said he didn't know why this was even on the table when they can barely handle the work they already have. He said it was "absolutely ridiculous." Eric said he wasn't clear how much work the project would require. Sandy said she also wasn't clear how much work would be involved. Liz said once the Town had that information, a decision could be made to use the crew or volunteers.
As for sidewalks, having a pedestrian -friendly downtown has the potential to attract more businesses, as opposed to people being too scared to walk to the next store because they're afraid of being hit. Sandy explained that what's needed is the Select Board to request a consultation with Vtrans on this project. Zara said she doesn't want to put more work and onus on Road Crew, but was willing to make the motion.
MOTION: Zara moved and Peter seconded a resolution to submit an application to VTrans for a Phase 1 consultation on a proposed demonstration project to improve safety and slow traffic in Middlesex Village. All but Vic voted in favor. The motion passed.

Highway Report

Eric submitted a bimonthly highway report (please see below). Jeff noted that a resident who travels widely praised Middlesex's roads for being far better maintained during this last storm than neighboring towns.
FEMA Update. Zara reported FEMA reimbursed the Town $643,600 for Culver, Shady Rill, and Government Hill earlier in the day. The Town is slated to receive the following broken down by road: Brook Rd $1,175,678.11, Old Brook Rd $96,059.16., Center Road approximately $607,768.39, East Hill $295,306.15, and Portal Road $23,569. The Wood, Macey, and Bolduc roads' group is in its final review and will bring in $435,000. Hopefully, that will be received within the next month.
The Board discussed publishing bids for summer work. Peter asked about the status of FEMA nationally and whether they will be cutting back on flood relief. Zara said the FEMA rep she and Eric have been working with did not take the buyout offered. Liz cautioned that the Town can't make any assumptions based on past experience. Vic blamed the Board for just assuming back in 2023 that FEMA would pay for everything. Liz reminded him that that's what the governor said – repair and FEMA will reimburse. Besides, there were no other options; the roads needed to be fixed so people could be able to get out of their homes.

MVFD Monthly Meeting

Jeff delivered a monthly report (please see below). Liz discussed the need for people to clean snow off their roofs to clear their vents to prevent explosions. Jeff said homeowners should also clear vents on the side of houses leading to Rinnai heaters. Zara said free radon kits can be ordered by going to Vermont.gov.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Peter moved and Zara seconded regretfully accepting Sarah Merriman's resignation as Select Board Assistant effective March 4, 2025 when she steps down at Town Clerk. The motion passed.

All orders were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 PM.

THE ABOVE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS A WARNED AGENDA ITEM AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD ON MARCH 11, 2025.

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LIZ SCHARF, CHAIR

_____N/A_____
RANDY DRURY, VICE CHAIR

_____
VIC DWIRE

_____
PETER HOOD

_____
ZARA VINCENT

Bimonthly Road Report

PM February 20, 2025

2/4/2025-2/18/2025

Equipment
Kenworth- Running no issues
International- Running no issues
Freightliner- Running and no problems at this time
Grader- Running no issues
Excavator- Running and no issues
Road Work/Issues
Keeping up with winter weather
Pushing pack snow banks this week

18 Feb MVFD Meeting Notes

Total calls this year: 10
Calls during this period: 7
Mutual Aid out: 2
Mutual Aid in: 1
Max members respond: 9
Min members respond: 2
Avg members respond: 4.5

E-1 out 1 time
E-6 out 0 times
T-1 out 2 times
R-1 out 2 time
Tk-14 out 0 times
POV out 3 times

21 Dec, Ember Lane, Structure fire, T-1, R-1, 4 responders
MA out, Berlin
26 Jan, Zdon Road, Lift assist, POV, 2 responders
31 Jan, East Bear Swamp Rd, Structure fire, E-1, T-1, R-1, 9 responders
MA in, MFD, WoVFD, MorVFD
14 Feb, I-89 NB mm55, Car in ditch, Cnx'd by CD, No vehicle response, 5 responders
16 Feb, Vt Rt 100, Child locked in car, POV, 3responders
MA out, Duxbury
17 Feb, Center Road, Vehicle over guardrail, POV, 7 responders

FAST Sq:
11 total for the reporting period
10 medical only calls

Training: Fire extinguisher usage and chimney fire review.

Repairs:

Purchases:

Notes: For the period 1857, 31 Jan to 1334 01 Feb (18.5 hours) we responded to one fire call and four FS calls.

DRAFT