Select Board Members

__ Vic Dwire ***resigned***
__ Larry Rooney
__ Liz Scharf, Chair
__ Stacey Skadberg
___Zara Vincent

MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD
5:00 PM
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
SPECIAL MEETING
Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

PRESENT: Chair Elizabeth (Liz) Scharf. Selectboard members: Zara Vincent (Chair of the Town Roads subcommittee). Road Foreman/Road Commissioner/MVFD Chief Eric Metivier. Treasurer/Town Clerk Cheryl Grandfield. Planning Commission Chair Sandy Levine, Conservation Chair Adrianne Magida. Assistant Town Clerk Lorna Fortune. Newly elected Selectboard members Larry Rooney and Stacey Skadberg. Sam Robinson with the Mad River Path project. Don Wexler*, Ben Abair with the Town Highway Department. Michele Johnson. Paul Seminara*, Lister Shelly Desjardins*. Michele Levine*.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Call to order/amendments/welcoming guests:

>Note: Liz informed new board members that communications between 3 or more people is considered a meeting and must be warned. Selectboard meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Liz Scharf, as prior selectboard chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Liz welcomed newly elected selectboard members Larry Rooney and Stacey Skadberg, and the new assistant town clerk, Lorna Fortune.

>>Note: there was trouble connecting to zoom and those wishing to sign in. Stopped meeting a few times to reset before continuing. Thankfully, Sandy Levine, Planning Commission Chair, was able to fix the zoom interruptions and allow the meeting to continue.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Appointment of Select Board Chair. Consideration of Chair's voting status:
MOTION: Zara Vincent moved to nominate Liz Scharf as Chair, with voting status, Stacey Skadberg seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment of Select Board Vice-Chair:
MOTION: Liz Scharf moved to nominate Zara Vincent as Vice-Chair, Stacey Skadberg seconded. Motion carried.

Designating time and place for Select Board meetings:

MOTION: Liz moved to hold Select Board meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM, at the Town Hall. Larry Rooney seconded. Motion carried.

Designating newspaper of record:

MOTION: Zara moved that the Times Argus be the paper of record, Stacey seconded. Motion carried.

Appointing Select Board Assistant

MOTION: Zara moved to appoint Assistant Town Clerk Lorna Fortune as Select Board Assistant and granting the Select Board Assistant and Town Clerk authority to do the following: approve excess weight permits and approve catering permits via the Department of Liquor Control. Stacey seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment of Road Commissioner

MOTION: Zara moved to appoint Eric Metivier as Road Commissioner and liaison between the Select Board and the Commissioner. Larry seconded. Motion carried.

Appointments to the Following Town Positions

There are 2 vacancies that need to be filled for the following town positions. Vic Dwire resigned from the Select Board, the week after he was voted in for a new term. The Budget Committee needs to have one position filled. The Selectboard requests that a notice of vacancy be posted for both these positions.

MOTION: Zara moved to (re-appoint) Steve Dennis to be the Emergency Management Coordinator. Stacey seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Zara moved to re-appoint Jason Merrill as the Fire Warden. Larry seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Zara moved to re-appoint Gary Lamel as the Tree Warden. Larry seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stacey moved to re-appoint Eric Brown as the Wrightsville Beach Management Representative. Larry seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Larry moved to re-appoint Mitch Osiecki as the Recreation Director. Stacey seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Larry moved to re-appoint Mitch Osiecki as the E911 Coordinator. Stacey seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Larry moved to re-appoint David Lawrence as the Middlesex representative to the Central Vermont Internet Board. Zara seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Larry moved to re-appoint Dell McDonough as the Middlesex representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District. Zara seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Larry moved to re-appoint Ronald Krauth as the Middlesex representative to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. Zara seconded. Motion carried.

** There was not a quorum available to review the readoption of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns model Rules of Procedures. No Action Taken.

* As an elected position, appointments are only until the March 2026 Town Meeting.

REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING

Approval of the February 18, 2025, regular Select Board meeting minutes.

Approval of Agenda: Zara made the motion to approve. Larry Seconded. Motion carried.

Bimonthly Road Report (courtesy of Eric Metivier)
02/19/2025 – 03/11/2025

Equipment

Kenworth – running no issues
International – running no issues (needs to get rear suspension brackets replaced. One side was cracked due to age. It has been welded for now)
Freightliner – Broke down on Friday 03/07/2025. It looks like transfer case issues. Will need to look into this further.
Grader – running, no issues
Excavator – running, no issues

Road Work/Issues

Keeping up with winter weather challenges
Pushing back snow banks this week
Preparing for mud season

Today (03/11/25) Road crew filled potholes on Shady Rill

FEMA UPDATE
Zara reported on the FEMA update. She and Cheryl Grandfield have been working on correcting and updating the momentous task of matching Dirt Tech's repairs on spreadsheets for matching expenses by road and by expense to report back to FEMA.

- Discrepancy of about $70,000 in Dirt Tech invoicing
- Notch Road (pending peer review) $435k for 2023 flooding
  2024 Flood:
- Materials furnished by the Town $70k
- FEMA refunds are done on a road by road basis
- New FEMA Rep will be assigned at the end of the month.

MCC request for dumpster

Adriane Magida presented information on the MCC request for a dumpster (from Bolduc's) to collect tires for Green up day, May 4, 2025. The cost has increased to $345 for the dumpster rental, plus a disposal fee of $8 per tire and $16 per tire with a rim.

- Green-up day budget $1,500
- CVSWD should send town clerk a note re: grant for Green-up day
- Dumpster $345
- Tires $8 / $16 on the rim

Zara made the motion to approve the costs for a dumpster rental and associated tire disposal fees for the Green Up day collection. Larry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Presentation of Mad River Paths by Sam

Sam made the presentation, instead of Misha Golfman, as Misha is not currently available. Sam is promoting the Mad River Valley Active Transportation corridor which aligns with the Mad River path study, in the hope that Middlesex would like to support, join, and become involved in this project. Sam had a detailed power point presentation showing the scope of their hopes for this project.

- Focus on segmenting, permitting, construction
- To create a multi-use pathway within the ROW along 100 (varies from 50' to 100') with exception of a few places
- Northern Terminus
    - Middlesex Village (Route 2/Route 100B, or closer to I-89?
    - Church St. bridge? Red Hen? Possibilities..
    - Needs: Parking, EV Charging, E-bike charging, Information
    - No financial request, at this point they are requesting our support/commitment
    - Advisory committee/scoping team – need member
    - Don Wexler – advisory committee member – Moretown, previous owner of Camp Meade voiced his support.
- Liz suggested that we make a motion to support the project

Zara made a motion to support the intent to move forward in the interests of supporting this project. Stacey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sam will draft a letter for the town to show intent to support. Liz offered to sign off on a letter of support from the town of Middlesex.

Planning Commission update

- Minor zoning changes on the agenda (within a couple of months)
- Red Hen is hoping to expand. Not enough room at Camp Meade.
- Extend "mixed use" zoning? Welsh Park? "fit" well for extension of zoning changes? South to river?
- Hearings in April, then to Selectboard.
- New Planning Commission members: Tom Jackman and David Magida
- Water Survey: proposal to increase water supply to village, etc.
- Interest in independent water district for Middlesex village?
- Zoning to expand housing opportunities?
- Walking paths near Rumney school?
- VTRANS: temporary project, flaggers, barricades, change in traffic patterns for approximately a month

- Crosswalk: traffic calming measures in the village?
- Many thanks to Sandy Levine for all the work she has put into this project

Treasurer's Report

-Municipal Climate Relief Fund (MCRF)

Liz discussed the MCRF which is offering emergency bond to municipalities at 1.3%. Liz recommended that the town apply for money to pay for the 1.2 million dollar box culverts rebuild from the 2023 flood, that is under contract with Dirt Tech for summer 2025.

The Board discussed applying for more money to pay down the Community Bank higher interest loan. Liz also reminded the board that we could apply for a traditional bond from the Vermont Bond Bank, but, that bond does not allow the town to prepay when FEMA money comes in. Zara moved and Stacey seconded the motion to allow Cheryl to apply for a $2.5 million emergency bond due March 14, 2025. Motion carried.
Board discussed the permanent repairs for the 2024 flood and Zara explained that the Town still needs to hear back about the H&H Studies: Hydrologic and Hydronic to determine what is needed for 2025 Bids/RFPs. Zara reminded the board that the FEMA Deadline is 18 months from DOL (Date of Loss-July 10, 2024)

Vacancy Postings for Selectboard + Budget Committee:
Town has set a deadline for letters of interest to be April 10th with interviews at the April 15th Select Board meeting

Old board members, Vi, Liz and Zara Signed off on orders

Meeting adjourned 7:12 p.m.

ELIZABETH SCHARF, CHAIR

ZARA VINCENT, VICE CHAIR

STACEY SKADBERG

LARRY ROONEY

VACANT