Select Board Members
____Liz Scharf, Chair
_x_ Zara Vincent, Vice Chair
___ Stacey Skadberg
_x__ Larry Rooney
_x__ Paul Cerminara

Middlesex Select Board Meeting

5:00 PM
Tuesday June 2, 2026
Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom*
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
Meeting Minutes

Attending: Eric Metivier, Carol Maloney, Shelly Desjardin, Bill Preis, Adrienne Magida, Sam Beaudoin, Steve Dennis

5:00PM

- **Call to order and welcome guests**
- **Approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026 Regular Select Board Meeting**
  - Edits made per Zara Vincent and Paul Cerminara

Motion: Paul Cerminara moved to approve amended minutes, Larry Rooney seconded, motion approved

- **Approve agenda for June 2, 2026 and consider any amendments to the agenda**

Motion: Paul Cerminara moved to approve agenda as proposed, Larry Rooney seconded, motion approved

5:03

- **Planning commission new member chosen**
  - Two applicants
  - Zara Vincent read letter submitted by Ben Klein
  - Jimmy Pries applied but backed out
  - Zara Vincent congratulated Ben for his appointment

Motion: Paul Cerminara moved to nominate Ben Klein to MDX planning commission, Larry Rooney seconded, motion approved

5:06

- **Procurement policy with added language recommended by auditor**
  - New policy shared among board members; town attorney added the language

Motion: Larry Rooney moved to approve amendment to procurement policy from the auditor and written by the town attorney, Paul Cerminara seconded, motion approved

5:07

- **Sign documents from Cheryl Grandfield regarding petty cash, return payment, property tax and delinquent tax policy**
  - Group of policies that Cheryl Grandfield shared last week for board signatures
  - Board agreed no vote was needed for this item

5:08

- **Jessica Beaudoin's request to purchase land from the town and next steps**

- Zara Vincent read letter submitted by Jessica Beaudoin about her interest in purchasing parcel of land
    - Jessica expressed interest in putting a house on property – it adjoins personal property already owned by Jessica Beaudoin
- Paul Cerminara read a letter from Sarah Villeneuve who owns an adjacent property; she is preparing an offer letter
    - Paul Cerminara stated that Richard Cowles is also interested
- Paul Cerminara said that some town boards and committees may have an interest; town pit offers the town a resource for emergency gravel and possible stump dump
    - If whole parcel were sold that value to road crew would be lost
    - Not against a sale of portion
    - Before committing would like to see professional exploration for extraction of gravel or sand
    - Would like to make sure all town interests are considered
- Steve Dennis suggested that town has FEMA property that has been bought out that might be available for use for stump dump
    - Paul Cerminara responded that FEMA requires some maintenance of those bought-out properties
- Paul Cerminara would like to involve town forest and trails committees in the conversation; would like to see professional input about value of sand or gravel for town use
- Zara Vincent said in long run it would be a town-wide vote about the purchase decision
- Paul Cerminara suggested as a starting point to ask town boards and committees to talk about the property's potential value to the town
- Shelly Desjardin wants to make sure work done in the past on this property doesn't get upset by new exploration
- Jessica Beaudoin said she had an attorney look at her letter and they said if property was an old landfill they would suggest she would be liable for any future contamination of waterways; she would be happy to include an easement for the property
- Paul Cerminara agreed there may be some unknowns about what's under the surface because historical uses are not known
- Next steps: Zara will notify town boards and committees about this potential sale or transfer

5:17

- **Highway report from Eric Metivier**
    - Met budget for 2026 gravel
    - Repaired outlet on Culver Hill that was washing out
    - Start tomorrow on McCullough Hill – final 2024 FEMA repair that town will be managing
    - Equipment update:
        - Kenworth – running, no issues
        - International – running, no issues
        - Freightliner – running, no issues
        - Grader – running, no issues
        - Excavator – running, no issues
    - Road Work/Issues
        - Old Brook Rd – waiting on design/permits (core drilling completed 2/5/26)
        - Moved the excavator to McCullough Hill to finish 2024 FEMA flood repairs starting Weds. 6/3
        - Repaired an outlet of a cross culvert on Culver Hill
        - FEMA close out work

- Working on replacing missing signs throughout town (as weather and workload allows)

- **FEMA Report from Zara Vincent**
  - Work to be completed from 2023 Flood damages:
    - Norton Rd. – Squash culvert being installed July 20; Will extend deadline from July 14, 2026 to October 31
    - Lower Sunnybrook – large culvert work starting 8/1/26; Will extend deadline from July 14, 2026 to October 31
    - Eric Metivier reported that as long as FEMA sees momentum, they don't have a problem granting the extension
  - Work to be completed from 2024 flood damages:
    - Old Brook – bids out in July by engineer to contractors; Extension in place to Dec 31, 2026
    - Daniel's Farm – bids out in July by engineer; Extension in place to Dec 31, 2026
    - Bolduc Rd. – survey needed; 2027 repair due to concrete culvert construction needed
    - French Rd. – survey needed; 2027 repair due to concrete culvert construction needed
      - Concrete culvert structures will be completed this fall
      - Need to extend both from 12/31/26 to 6/30/27
    - Eric Metivier said he has permits for Lower Sunnybrook Road
    - RFPs have gone live for Norton Road and Lower Sunnybrook
      - June 19th – RFPs close
  - Zara & Eric to meet Thursday to continue to get through action items sent by FEMA state representative for close out process

5:30

- **Mad River Path regarding letter of support and 20% local match**
  - Misha and Jeff from Mad River Path presented and answered questions
  - Jeff is new to the project and has engineered similar projects in Connecticut
  - Misha spoke to board earlier in 2026
  - Completed corridor study in 2024, looking at potential path from Warren to Middlesex
    - A lot of public support for connecting cross-Vermont path to Mad River Valley
  - Got a $600,000 grant to implement section in Warren
  - Has concluded that best approach is to approach project from both directions
  - They need a more in-depth study to determine route; VTRANS said study is needed to apply for grants – how to get across bridges
  - Presented to Moretown yesterday; $100,000 estimate for study of corridor; the smallest portion is in Middlesex; 20% is $20,000; asked Moretown to put in $15,000 and is asking $5,000 from MDX; apply for the grant, announce grants in August; no work happens until October and it's a year-long process; would not be billed for another year – late summer 2027
  - Paul Cerminara asked when the $5,000 would have to be agreed upon?
    - Responded that application is due June 12 and town will have to submit a letter of support for the application to be submitted
  - Zara Vincent asked about other grants received
    - Misha reported that $600,000 for first section Waitsfield was received; Waitsfield allocated $120,000 as local match; VTRANS advises this is a three year process; committee is experiencing it as a four year project
  - Federal gov. did not eliminate grants for this type of project

- Paul Cerminara said he is intrigued; is concerned that if VTRANS doesn't allow use of the bridge it would require significant infrastructure to connect the path; asked how $5,000 contribution would help town feel better with connectivity questions
    - Corridor study said that path should start at Camp Mead; VTRANS endorsed that idea; now they are saying give them details; researched options about how other states have managed similar situations; VTRANS seeks solutions that might work for the state
    - Misha reported that this is a future economic driver as pathway will safely connect downtown MDX and Waitsfield; this path will bring in a lot of people like Stowe bike path and Burlington does
- Paul Cerminara wonders what the planning commission would think
    - Planning commissions did a scoping study of walkability of village; at a standstill right now, this could be an impetus to improve walkability; believe the committee would be in support of this
- Another $80,000 grant was received with support by Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, and Warren
- Zara Vincent said it's a neighborhood project and there is funding in the budget for this; added there are bike tours that would use this; and maybe there are people who would use the path to get to work
- Larry Rooney asked about starting point; what about parking? Is parking being considered?
    - Misha responded that Camp Mead said they would allow additional parking; they met with them many times and they support this
- Bill Preis – are they working with local transportation?
    - Misha stated they are working with "active transportation" and have a liaison at VTRANS now; have an implementation committee that includes Adrienne Magida from MDX
    - Working hand in hand with legislature and VTRANS
    - This is also in connection with CVRPC – a CVRPC member is on the committee
- Bill Preis asked about how portion was determined
    - Misha said he hopes the benefit to town is greater than small portion that is in the town of MDX
- Misha said on the section from MDX village to Stevens Brook Rd there is enough space to not disturb existing right of way; would require shifting the lanes and adding a five foot green strip; VTRANS said there is space
- Paul Cerminara said downtown has struggled with next kick; maybe this is the kick – will give boots on the ground reason for more commercial investment
- Sandy Levine wrote that the commission supports the project; it aligns with walkable MDX

Motion: Larry Rooney moved that the town support the request and commit $5,000 in town funds; Paul Cerminara seconded, motion approved

5:48

- **Continue reviewing and editing Class 4 Road policy**
    - Select Board held general discussion about language
    - Paul Cerminara suggested they start with Michael Levine's suggestions re: occasional town support with maintenance of trails; made edits to the old policy
    - Winter maintenance concern; discussion about use of snow machines on those roads

- Adrienne Magida reported from trails committee that the class 4 section be available to snowmobiles – she stated that some of the class 4 roads turn into trail, and then back into a class 4 road
- Steve Dennis suggested the town require insurance and registration of vehicles on the roads
    - Sam Beaudoin asked about "not plowed" roads – wanted to distinguish between town plowed and privately plowed
    - Paul Cerminara said that the language should say "town maintained and plowed"
- Zara Vincent suggested that in all places where road commissioner is mentioned that language be added to include "and/or road foreman"
    - A suggestion was made that select board ask attorney about liabilities for town if it requires permissions before any work is done
- Bill Preis mentioned that there is a state definition for each class of road; state standards and guidelines have to be followed; He asked if basic requirements aren't able to be met, how can roads be reclassified? He suggested the town may be liable for actions taken on the road
- Paul Cerminara read the section about upgrading criteria; referred to suggestions from MDX Conservation Commission about what considerations the select board should look at when considering an upgrade
- Larry Rooney said the VLCT suggestions include the state statutes that the town has to follow
- Paul Cerminara suggested the board start at maintenance – leave Sections A, B, and C as they are – those are good as written; likes including that once privately conducted work is completed there is a review by road foreman
    - Section D – removal of obstructions – referring to summer maintenance; Larry Rooney added that the town should beef up the maintenance of a lot of class 4 roads in town and maybe use Moretown's options for two categories of class 4 roads
        - Larry asked if the town can grade all Class 4 roads once a year?
    - Paul Cerminara likes the idea of having A and B categories for class 4 roads – could designate some class 4 roads as trails
    - Shelly Desjardin asked if there is a list of Class 4 roads and trails? Would like to see what the maps show
        - Eric Metivier said town has a map of all roads and their classification
        - Steve Dennis said the town forest is accessible in winter and the town advertises its use
        - Parking area of town forest trails is owned by the state
        - Paul Cerminara would like to see "maintainable" Class 4 roads
            - Asked: Could Class 4, Group B maintenance be minimum as defined by state? Could town provide more maintenance to Class 4, Group A roads?
        - Select board overall agrees it makes sense to create two categories or groups for Class 4 roads
        - Zara Vincent said there has to be language that stipulates if there's an emergency, maintenance would be done as time and resources allow – pointed to example of past flood emergencies
            - Also referenced specific Moretown language re: the two categories as good starting place for new language
        - Paul Cerminara asked if trail maintenance is required; group suggested the town create a trails policy; Adrienne Magida said trails committee will take on that task
        - Eric Metivier said that some of the roads are challenging to turn grader around – otherwise he doesn't see challenges with the language to do annual

maintenance on Class 4, Group A roads; size of equipment will be a factor in ability to get to these roads

- Unique situation on Notch Road section that accesses the town forest; Paul Cerminara reported on COVID-era funding and vision to address many safety concerns; opportunities are no longer the same; town forest is well-used in winter; road is barely width of side by side
    - Any improvements will encourage more people to the area
    - The turnaround is on a hillside and there are safety concerns
    - Language needs to include safety of crew and equipment
- Larry Rooney said he's concerned about people calling the town because their sander is broken and other situations and asking for town to assist with plowing; leaving it to foreman's discretion is difficult – if you do something for one person others will expect it
- Zara Vincent suggested keeping policy as is with no winter maintenance; need to consider public safety issues; add caveat that if foreman thinks the town can help in limited circumstances they will
- Sam Beaudoin asked that the requirement that permission be granted be removed; the board agrees with this change
- Paul Cerminara likes idea of closure of certain stretches of Class 4 roads in winter – those roads that would fall under Class 4, Group B category; would save town some headaches by precluding heavy vehicle use – for example, off-roading vehicles; would still allow pedestrian, horse, ski, and snowmachine use
- Discussion about speed enforcement challenges in town
- Board thanked Michael Levine for his contributions to the discussion
- Paul Cerminara asked board members to send their notes and edits and he would create new draft for next discussion

6:52

- **Adjournment**

Motion: Larry Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting, Paul seconded, motion approved

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2026 MIDDLESEX SELECT BOARD MEETING WERE APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD ON JUNE 16, 2026.

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LIZ SCHARF, CHAIR

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ZARA VINCENT, VICE CHAIR

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LAWRENCE ROONEY

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PAUL CERMINARA

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STACEY SKADBERG
Submitted by: Carol Maloney