Select Board Members
__x__Liz Scharf, Chair
_x Zara Vincent, Vice Chair
_x__ Stacey Skadberg
_x_ Larry Rooney
_x_ Paul Cerminara* (present only for executive session)

Middlesex Select Board Meeting

5:00 PM

Tuesday October 20, 2026

Middlesex Town Hall and via Zoom*

5 Church Street

Middlesex, Vermont 05602

(802) 223-5915

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Chair Liz Scharf, Vice Chair Zara Vincet, Selectboard members Larry Rooney, Stacey Skadberg. Road Foreman/Fire Chief Eric Metivier, Treasurer Cheryl Grandfield, Firefighters Sam Wooster and Brendon Lareau, Assistant Treasurer/Justice of the Peace Dorinda Crowell, Town Clerk Brigid Browning, Mad River Trails Association implementation coordinator Jeff Doolittle, Conservation Commission Chair Adrienne Magida, Town Administrator Liam Abbate, DEC Floodplain Coordinators Ned Swanberg and Rose Watts. Lawyers Theodore Rose and Rob Halpert. Selectboard member Paul Cerminara was present remotely for executive session only.

5:05: Liz calls meeting to order.

5:06: Zara moves to approve minutes of Oct 6th, Larry seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

5:07: Liz introduces amendment to agenda for Liz to authorize temporary easement for construction on Daniels Farm Rd

5:08. Selectboard unanimously approves the agenda

Highway Report

5:08: Old brook Rd work is awarded to ECI. Pre-construction meeting on Thursday, and work should start next week. Daniel Farms Work is awarded to Bob Edwards and Son. They patched parts Shady Rill. Working on FEMA paperwork.

Temporary easement for Construction on Daniels Farm Rd

Stacey is recusing herself from this vote because she hasn't had a chance to read all the relevant details/information. Zara makes motion to approve Liz signing the Daniel Farms Rd temp easement, Larry Seconds. Stacey abstains, with Zara, Liz, and Larry approving the motion.

FEMA Report

5:15: Town is changing the Daniels Farm Rd scope of work to include lawyers' fees. Lower Sunnybrook's guardrails are being fixed/implemented. Eric will drive around with someone from VTrans to collect photos.

ANR is supervising Wetlands restoration on Center Rd by Weed's property and South Bear Swamp Rd. Dorinda asked about Plow trucks that are being purchased for budget committee understanding of future expenses. Eric said they should both arrive in FY2028.

Fire Dept Update

5:20: Total calls this year: 76. Engine-1 out 3 times

Calls during this period: 8. Engine-6 out 1 times.

Mutual Aid out: 2. Tanker-1 out 2 times.

Mutual Aid in: 0. Rescue-1 out 6 times.

Max members respond: 9. Tanker-14 out 0 times.

Min members respond: 2. POV out 9. Avg members respond: 5.

Eric reports that per state statute. Fire chiefs automatically become fire Wardens. Fire Chief can appoint deputy fire chief to issue burn permits. Eric is deputizing Sam Wooster (518-641-9678) to issue the burn permits.

Cheryl asked Eric whether we can bill non-Middlesex residents for Fire Dept services on 89. Eric said he is not aware of a system that allows for such billing.

Mad River Path Scoping Study

5:29: Jeff Doolittle is the implementation coordinator. The scoping Study grant was approved. Moretown is unable to administer the grant because of federal funding limits. Mad River Path/Mad River Trails put together the grant application. Zara asks whether administering this grant will limit us accessing future state/federal funding. Jeff said he doesn't think so.

Adrienne said that in May we approved participation but not being lead town. Middlesex' Impression at the time was that Moretown would be administering it. Larry asked what our responsibilities would be as the lead town. Jeff said we would be paying for the work and then getting reimbursed by VTrans. When VTrans comes up with a grant agreement, someone such as the SB chair would have to sign it. Liz thanked Jeff for his work on this project and acknowledged that bike paths bring people together and bring tourists.

River Corridor Presentation from the Dept of Environmental Conservation

5:43: Ned Swanberg explains Flood Insurance rate map changes are coming up in early 2027. Rose Watts is a regional floodplain manager with DEC/ANR to support municipalities in understanding regulations. Ned explains that, of late, we have been subject to a lot of flooding. Floodway has higher velocity of water than the rest of the FEMA-recognized floodplain. Base flood elevation is a base level to indicate where the flood level will rise. River corridors allow for the least gradient for the path of the river down the valley. Little streams and little roads in VT's valleys introduce conflict and damage. No adverse impact means causing no additional damage to neighboring properties. We don't want to build any closer than what is already there.

The state has mapped river corridors along Great Brook, North Branch, Sunny brook, Martins Brook. Protecting river corridors avoids putting people in harms way in a know hazard area. Protection also reduces the likelihood that the river forces itself to be cut down. New FEMA floodplain maps will be released in early 2027. "Zone A" data will be added. Great brook won't get new data but will be more precise data. Elsewhere in towns will get new "Zone A' areas that have a certain level of flood risk. Liz confirms with Ned that river corridor regulations would keep people from building where they shouldn't be building. Ned explains that after federally declared disaster, there is usually 75% or occasionally 90% of disaster reimbursement. Of the non-federal match, ERAF determines state/town breakdown by considering whether town has adopted road/bridge standards, a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Local Emergency Management Plan, and participates in the National Flood insurance program. Having all those things, plus river corridor regs would increase local/state share to 25/75%.

6:03: Zara motioned to move to adjourn temporarily for BCA. Stacey seconded. SB approved unanimously. Paul Cerminara joined the meeting on Zoom.

_____ [Board of Civil Authority meeting] _____

7:03: selectboard meeting is reconvened. Stacey moves and Larry seconds for Selectboard enters executive session. Carries unanimously. Larry moves and Zara seconds for Liam

Abbate, Rob Halpert, and Theodore Rose to be included in executive session. Carries unanimously.

8:39: The Selectboard comes out of Executive session. Paul exited Zoom.

Town Administrator's Report

8:40: Liam has been unable to figure out who owns tennis courts. Listers' documents demonstrate that property taxes have been paid on Carr Cemetery since at least 1990.

8:42: The ".gov" transition is underway. Emails will transfer over from "@middlesexvermont.org" to the new suffix "@middlesexvt.gov". New emergency management, fire dept, recreation, and Board of Civil Authority (BCA) email addresses. BCA email address would automatically be forwarded to all BCA members. However, the Justices of the peace could change after election. Conservation commission and budget committee are to transition to a single email address from a forwarding list.

8:48: UVM recommends towns have a census designated place. Selectboard is okay with this.

8:49: Liam is investigating a phone directory. For treasurer, town clerk, listers, town admin, fire dept, zoning, and road crew. He hasn't gotten a quote yet. Liz said First light could be an alternative to Consolidated Communication. Liam tries to not give the whole town his cell phone number.

8:53: It is Eric's idea to apply for the FY28 Better Roads grants to replace culverts under Shady Rill Rd between Rumney School and VT Route 12. VTrans' Class 2 repaving grant would pay for repaving that section of Shady Rill.

8:55: Liam will work to wrap up FY 2025 grant for municipal planning grant. But some billing work remains to come. FY 2027 planning grant in development by Liam and Sandy Levines.

8:57: Zara invited other SB members to meet with Liam on Mondays to check in.

Invoice from Dexter Lefavour

9:00: Selectboard reviewed invoice from Dexter Lefavour of New England Consulting Engineering. Selectboard believed this project was volunteer work, but then they received an invoice for the drawings: $53k plus interest, totaling $58k. Selectboard met in executive session to discuss this, and it's now in the hands of our lawyer.

Correspondence with Selectboard

9:01: Correspondence: Stacey talks about Budget Committee's correspondence that brought up that elected official have been receiving overtime. Further review needed. Liz talks about correspondence where resident was attacked by dogs on French Rd and Culver Hill Rd. The Middlesex Animal control officer will visit household on Culver Hill Rd. Liz explains how dog will have to stay on private property, out of the road. Town's goal is to work with the household.

Other Business

9:07: Zara spoke about how Cheryl and Brigid charge the town for their time to be at selectboard meetings. Eric is not currently charging for his time. So, Zara wants Brigid and Cheryl's reports frontloaded in the schedule. Liz says volunteers don't like to wait for a while to talk before the board. Stacey says that when Eric appears before board as road foreman, he should be billing the town. Zara says once they give their report, they're off the clock.

9:11 Liz reminds us that time sheets are included in orders to approve them. The selectboard's personnel policy applies to employees who report to the selectboard.

9:13 Larry moves to adjourn, Stacey seconds. Carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Liam Abbate, Town Administrator

_____ ELIZABETH SCHARF, CHAIR

_____ ZARA VINCENT, VICE CHAIR

_____ LARRY ROONEY

_____ STACEY SKADBERG

_____ PAUL CERMINARA