

**MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS SELECTBOARD
APPROVED MINUTES, JUNE 8, 2017**

BOARD PRESENT: H. Childress, C. Fenton, P. Kenyon, T. Redfield

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk L. Castle; Lister S. Achey; Road Foreman B. Reed; Auditor S. Grimm; Conservation Commissioner E. Cooper

PUBLIC PRESENT: Wheaton Squier

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00pm.

Minutes: T. Redfield moved to approve the minutes of the May 25 meeting; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. P. Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of the June 5 special meeting; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Town Officers: Elizabeth Cooper and the Conservation Commission. In March, she was the only commissioner left. She's been recruiting, and has three new applicants: Richard Kniffen, Steve Harrington, and Tasha Turan. Elizabeth has been unable to find the original charter for the Conservation Commission, and is working with Laura to investigate it from old minutes. The original ten-year plan has lapsed, and she would like to revive it, in concert with the Planning Commission. They've already replaced some trail markers and are working on the sign. The Town has previously been a member of the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions, and Elizabeth requested \$50 for a renewed two-year membership. P. Kenyon moved to appoint Richard Kniffen, Steve Harrington, and Tasha Turan to the Middletown Springs Conservation Commission until Town Meeting 2018; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Sally Achey reported on a NEMRC training for the new software system, and made the request to move the NEMRC subscriptions to the cloud-based service (for Lister, Clerk and Treasurer services), at a cost of \$30 per month. H. Childress moved to move the NEMRC subscriptions to the cloud-based service; P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. She also discussed the Listers' research on purchasing a new laptop, and on working off-site; she will investigate VLCT recommendations on town employees and officers working from home.

Town Lands: The Building Committee held a day-long energy charette to review the building plans; the contractors were pleased with the Committee's preparation, and the work was productive. Structural and soil borings will occur soon.

H. Childress moved to establish a Cemetery Task Force, comprising John Arseneault, Nora Rubinstein, and David Wright; P. Kenyon 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. H. Childress will call that group together.

Road Foreman: Rodney Tarbell is not interested in doing roadside mowing, so we have no current plan for an early mowing; Bill will have his crew work around guardrails and intersections by hand until we have a plan for more complete mowing, and will investigate who else might be available.

Bill will have a guardrail crew do an estimate for this season's work: spots along Garron Road and Haley Road are the two priorities for this year. Garron Road box culvert project has a site visit in preparation for developing a bid package. The AOT and ANR are willing to do a training on culvert projects with the Board and road crew under the new water protection regulations; we will set possible dates for that meeting.

We will have a backhoe in a week to use as a test vehicle for possible purchase.

The crew has been working on grading and shaping Garron and Spruce Knob, but the rains have hindered progress. Fitzgerald will be next in line.

We received a reimbursement for our safety equipment, for \$1,404.

Solid Waste: Wheaton Squier spoke about his work in composting. He already collects the municipal compost from Tinmouth, and would be prepared to take on Middletown Springs by the July 1 compliance deadline. The Town will purchase two containers, which can be swapped from week to week. He would charge the Town \$15 per week for collecting a 12-gallon container. T. Redfield moved to enter contract with Wheaton Squier for municipal organic collection, at \$15 per week, beginning July 1, 2017; H. Childress 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Correspondence:

- VT Dept of Labor bill for unemployment
- Application by Tasha Turan for Conservation Commission appointment
- May statement of activity for Sheriff's department
- Subscription form for Poultney Rescue Squad
- Refund check from VLCT Payroll Audit (\$277)
- RRPC letter of intent to participate Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program
- Annual distribution check to Town from the Copeland Milk Fund (\$6,000)

We also received an e-mail from Ron Masleh recommending use of the school facility for Town Office functions; however, regulations surrounding school safety and disallowed persons would prevent the use of school sites for general public access.

Board Orders: H. Childress moved to approve the board orders as presented; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*].

Other Business:

- Special Election. The June 6 special election had 260 total votes (212 in person, 48 absentee). The results were as follows:

- Article 1 (repeal of junk ordinance) failed 115-144-1
- Article 2 (tax exemption of firehouse) passed 206-53-1
- Article 3 (funding for Memorial Day parade) passed 204-55-1

Attorney Gary Kupferer advises that the junk ordinance cannot be revoted for at least twelve months without Selectboard approval.

H. Childress proposed a possibility of creating a Service Request Coordinator position, to record and investigate any possible complaints (junk, animal, property boundaries). H. Childress will investigate VLCT practices and write a proposed description for our next meeting.

- P. Kenyon and T. Redfield will review last year's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and recommend changes for this year's plan.

Executive Session: H. Childress moved that the Selectboard enter executive session; P. Kenyon 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Executive session entered at 9:02pm.

H. Childress moved to exit executive session; T. Redfield 2nd; [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Executive session closed at 9:36pm. No action taken.

Adjourn: T. Redfield moved to adjourn: H. Childress 2nd [*all in favor, motion carried*]. Meeting adjourned 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Childress, Selectboard Clerk