



*The*

# *Middletown Magnet*

*"News that sticks in Middletown Springs"*



## **Let the Sugaring begin...**

Joe Teer's Sugar House. Photo by Emmett Francois.

## **News from the Board of Selectmen**

The SelectBoard wishes to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the voters of the Town of Middletown Springs for their attendance and participation in the recent Town Meeting process. Although our Town and Highway budgets were up this year, the Board worked diligently to try and hold the line as much as possible while still providing the level of services that our citizens have come to expect and demand. We are very grateful for the expression of support in the voting booth!

While we are working hard and making good progress on several fronts, your Town faces many challenges in the not-to-distant future. Certainly everyone is aware of the ongoing efforts toward rehabilitating the former 'Parker' property on the four corners and

developing a new Municipal Building to serve the town well into the future. **WE DESPERATELY NEED A NEW TOWN OFFICE!!** And we are very thankful for the perseverance and dedication of the members of the Building Committee for their ongoing efforts toward this end on our behalf.

We also need to develop a more suitable site for the Transfer Station and get this relocated away from the center of town. It is certainly a less than ideal situation today with the Fire Department, sand and salt shed, and town equipment all being cramped in such close quarters. We are fortunate to have been recently recertified, but our long-term goals must include a more suitable and user-friendly permanent site for this facility.

In a similar manner, both the existing town garage and fire department buildings are less than ideal for our needs. Trucks have grown in size over the years, and water and sanitary facilities in the current town garage are lacking. The Fire Department building is in need of some significant repairs and energy efficiency improvements, and the Fire Department is hampered in borrowing funds for building improvements because they do not actually own the land that the firehouse sits on. Perhaps a joint-use Fire Department and Municipal Equipment building would better suit our needs going forward.

Furthermore, the existing salt shed is in dire need of extensive renovation.... the middle wall is all but gone. Here again, a more suitable site away from the center of town would be advantageous, and would go a long way toward alleviating some of the water flow issues experienced by the Community Church.

As you can see, there are several pressing issues that really are of critical importance to your Town. We welcome any suggestions and possible solutions, and wish to remind everyone that the Select Board meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Town Clerk's Office on the green. We also need to fill an auditor position to round out the 3-member Board of Auditors. Please consider serving your Town in this capacity, and contact any one of the Select Board members, Auditors, or Town Clerk with any questions and/or to express your interest in serving your community.

With our thanks,

The Middletown Springs SelectBoard



## Elementary School News

by Rick Beal, Principal

At a recent Morning Meeting, the school had a visit by Officer Duca of the VT State Police and his K-9 partner, Buck. Office Duca talked about his role as an officer of the law and the role of Buck, too. He explained how Buck helps with law enforcement and the type of training police dogs receive. The children got a chance to ask questions and were very excited to be able to pet Buck (an unbelievably alert and well trained young Belgian Malinois). It was a great experience for the students. Officer Duca will be returning to visit our school periodically.

Middletown Springs is fortunate to have an excellent Pre-K program that help prepares our community's young children for kindergarten and beyond. The school's Pre-K Screening which will take place at MSES on April 21 for Middletown Springs' children whose parents are interested in having them attend the Pre-K program. Children must be at least three years old, but not yet five years old by September 21, 2015 to qualify. If you know of a Middletown Springs' family with Pre-K aged children, please encourage them to contact the school or provide us with their contact information and we'll be happy to share information about the program.

The 19th Annual RWSU Arts Celebration took place on Friday, March 27th at MSES and was a huge success. The event was well attended by students, parents and community members from all the towns in the supervisory union. It featured wonderful examples of different art media, as well as performances by students and community members. Also, there were opportunities for the children to create their own artwork which

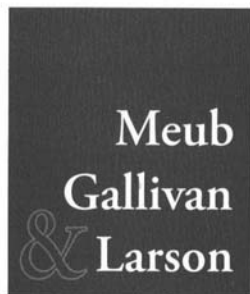
connected to the goals in the Farm to School grant. MSES would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Arts Celebration a success.

Rebecca Holcombe, VT Secretary of Education, has designated implementation of evidence-based practices in supporting instruction; including school climate, as a priority area for the use of BEST funds (Building Effective Support for Teaching Students). One of those supports is called PBIS which stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support. PBIS is a State-wide effort designed to help school teams form a proactive, school-wide, systems approach to improving social and academic competence for all students. MSES has received funding to develop PBIS in our school. The first step will be having a school team attend four days of training at the BEST Institute in June which will focus on supporting the initial implementation into our school. PBIS will be a positive step for students, staff and school.



## Fountain of Youth

All Middletown Seniors are invited to lunch at the Poultney Young At Heart Senior Center on April 29. Come after 11 for homemade soup and coffee and stay or come at noon for Brunswick Stew, Tossed Salad and Apple Crisp. Meals are cooked in the kitchen and are served family style – all for a suggested donation of \$3.25 for those 60 and over. The cost for others is \$4.25. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 287-9200. Celebrate spring and enjoy good food and fellowship.



Christopher J. Larson, Esq.

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## Library News



**April Art Show:** Did you miss the RWSU Celebration of Art?

We are having a Kid Art Show with a number of pieces from the SU-wide Art Celebration are on display at the library for the month of April. Many are from the students at MSES; Snowflake portraits, large paintings of fruit interiors, and more. Stop in and see.

The library is collaborating with the school to help keep this art on display longer. Creativity and the appreciation of art are part of a rich life. While you are at the library, check out the books we have on specific artists, art techniques, and works of art in both children's and adult sections of library.

**Spring Movie Nights:** Select Friday's at 7pm

April 10 - Big Hero 6

April 24 - Maleficent

May 1 - Into the Woods

Bring your own snack & beverage. Free & open to the public. Reminder: not every movie is appropriate for every viewer. Information about each movie can be found at [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) including parent advisories.

### Other Upcoming Events:

Friends Monthly Meeting: April 21, Tuesday 7pm

Trustee Meeting: April 21, Tuesday 9am

Book Group: April 23, Thursday 7-8pm *The Tiger's Wife*, by Téa Obreht

Knitting Circle: May 4, Monday 7-9pm [last one until October]

Public Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 2pm-7pm; Friday 10am-2pm; Saturday 10am-12 noon.

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## Planning Commission News

Consultant Selected For The Creative Economy Project

Kathy Letendre, a Middletown Springs resident and independent consultant, has been selected as the consultant to assist in the project to establish a Creative Economy organization in Middletown Springs. The project is funded by a \$7800 Municipal Planning Grant awarded to the town in December 2014 by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development.

Over the past several months the creative economy steering committee researched and spoke to potential consultants including the Rutland Regional Planning Commission and sent out a Request for Qualifications to five consultants. The committee selected Kathy and passed that recommendation on to the select board where it was approved on March 26th.

Kathy's selection and future work will build upon the earlier volunteer work she did with the committee and a community group last year. The work plan for Kathy and the Steering Committee includes meeting with the Steering Committee and Planning Commission, analyzing existing data and other research, meeting with targeted individuals, groups and/or organizations, and developing the creative organization, mission, vision, image and marketing plan.

Kathy is an independent consultant as well as a consultant with the Institute for Quality Advancement. Prior to her consulting roles she was Vice President of Planning & Organizational Excellence at the Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Steering Committee members include Nick Seidner - Rising Meadow Pottery, Ryan Mahar - Mahar Maple Farm, Marie Louka - Madrugada Farm LLC, Nora Rubinstein - Teleidoscope Group LLC and Beth Miller - Independent Consultant. Anyone interested in serving on the Steering Committee should contact any one of them. There is a role for everyone interested and all are welcome at committee meetings. In addition to the committee, Select Board member Herb Childress is the municipal authorizing official and Planning Commission member Tom Hurcomb is the grant administrator for carrying out the grant program within state guidelines.



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## School Directors (Regular) Meeting February 10, 2015 - Official Minutes

**Present:** Clarence Haynes (Chair), Meredith Morgan (Vice-Chair), Sarah Haley (Clerk), Christopher Smid and Jennelle Carr (Members). **Also Present:** Joan Paustian (Supt.), Louis Milazzo (Business Mgr.), Rick Beal (Principal).

**Public Present:** None

**1. Call to Order** - Clarence Haynes called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

**2. At 7:00PM** - the regular meeting will be suspended in order to conduct the School Board's Public Informational Meeting, after which the regular meeting will resume.

**3. Additions, Deletions, Changes to Agenda** - "Student Concern" needs to be added under #13 (Executive Session).

**4. Preparation for Public Informational Meeting** - Discussed which documents would be distributed to people attending the meeting, as well as slides and talking points.

Budget deficit was caused by secondary costs (tuition and special education expenses) which came in \$164,000 over budget. Some of this was made up by spending reductions in the elementary budget. We saved \$64,000 in the elementary budget, used \$31,000 from the Tuition Fund, and also used some special education reimbursement funds. These measures brought the deficit down from \$164,000 to approximately \$48,000.

Discussed what common questions might be brought up during public forum.

Primary expenses behind the elementary school budget are salaries, health insurance, plant maintenance, food service program, homework club.

The Board does not intend to harm the elementary school programs in order to pay for secondary education.

Discussed potential savings/costs of changing supervisory unions.

**5. Consent Agenda:** Approval of Minutes - January 20, 2015 (Regular) and January 26, 2015 (Special)

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 20 and January 26, with the following corrections/additions to the Jan. 20 minutes: Meredith Morgan wanted to clarify that the 1) the ADA lift would be for access to the second floor, 2) that Mr. Beal works with students on many diverse projects, and 3) that we are discussing possibilities for reducing costs in the future, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

**Superintendent's Report** - Supt. Paustian reported that she had sent a letter to House Speaker, Shap Smith regarding small school districts and their cost efficiency. She distributed a sum-

mary of AOE proposals from the state. The Supt. has spoken with Robin Chesnut-Tangerman. She is concerned that we will lose the Small Schools Grant funds due to having class sizes of less than 20 students. Supt. Paustian talked about the importance of 1:1 technology in classrooms and its benefits in differentiated teaching to students of all abilities. Discussion also took place on the concept of "flipping" classrooms and how they work.

The meeting was suspended at 7:00 to move into the Public Informational Meeting.

The Public Informational Meeting was called to order by Clarence Haynes at 7:06PM.

**In Attendance:** Joan Paustian, Rick Beal, Louis Milazzo, Clarence Haynes, Meredith Morgan, Christopher Smid, Sarah Haley, and Jennelle Carr. **Public Present:** None

The Board read through the article regarding our school budget and "The Path Forward."

The Board discussed some of the options that were presented by Harry Frank of the VSBA, regarding what other schools/districts have done in consolidation situations.

Many of the funding options used in the past are no longer available.

No Public in attendance. The Public Informational Meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM. Continuation of Regular Meeting - 7:33PM

**Principal's Report** - Mr. Beal shared that the Winter Sports Program is going well and that the time the teachers are using for professional development has been very valuable. They are working on homework objectives, Math, Science, and Social Studies, and developing rubrics to connect to standards. Mr. Beal went to Berlin, VT for a Supervision/Evaluation Conference focused on ways to effectively evaluate teacher performance. On Feb. 10, the fourth graders took the NAEP tests; part of "The Nation's Report Card." Mr. Beal is hoping to bring PBL (Proficiency Based Learning) practices to our school; there will be a need to develop a team. Per the Energy Assessment Report, Mr. Beal and Mr. LaBate will be addressing identified areas to improve the efficiency of the school building. Mr. Smid has another contact for Mr. Beal for an ADA lift which could be housed in a custodial closet and work internally; thereby reducing the cost from approximately \$100,000 to approximately \$70,000. Mrs. Morgan asked if the Board should consider getting a feasibility study done for a pellet system. Mr. Beal will work on this. Mr. Haynes noted that the school newsletter stated that students in grades 4/5 could lose ski/snowboard/skating privileges due to tardiness.

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continued from Page 4...

**Business Manager's Report - Financial Statements:** Mr. Milazzo distributed a Variance Analysis Report of current vs. budgeted expenses/revenues. Currently, we are showing a surplus of \$5,000; this number may increase as the end of the year approaches and purchase orders close. If all goes well, we may be able to move forward with the roof project this summer. Christopher Smid moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

**6. Approve Warrants:**

- a. Warrant #201 in the amount of \$58,296.56 dated 12/10/2014
- b. Warrant #202 in the amount of \$26,798.66 dated 12/24/14
- c. Warrant #203 in the amount of \$5,996.75 dated 1/7/15

Clarence Haynes moved to approve Warrant #201 in the amount of \$58,296.56 dated 12/10/2014, Warrant #202 in the amount of \$26,798.66 dated 12/24/14, and Warrant #203 in the amount of \$5,996.75 dated 1/7/15, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

**7. General Public Comments** - No Public Present

**8. Old Business:** a. Planning for Town Meeting - The school portion of Town Meeting will be second; after the town's portion. The proposed budget will be presented. A slide show will be used. Mr. Beal may also present. The Board will submit Christopher Smid's article to the Free Press for publication. It will also be posted on Front Porch Forum. The "sandwich board" sign will be put up at the green to publicize the meeting.

**9. New Business:** a. The School Board received a letter from parent and community member, Kathy Letendre. In this letter, Mrs. Letendre states that consolidation is often not successful; she cites a Penn State Study as well as a brief published by the National Education Policy Center in February, 2011. She hopes that we will not be guided by politics, emotions, or instincts; but rather by facts and evidence. The Board noted that we already consolidate services as much as possible, through bus contracts, sharing of itinerants, etc. To be considered, consolidation must be good for education and for taxpayers.

b. A question was raised about trying to consolidate social services as a cost savings as opposed to schools/education. The Board will discuss this with Harry Frank.

**10. Policies:**

- a. G-1 Curriculum Development & Coordination (revised – for input)
- b. G-1A Curriculum Coordinating Council (to be rescinded)
- c. G-1B Curriculum Management & Adoption (to be rescinded)
- d. D-2 Professional Development (new/revised); D-2R procedure to be rescinded
- e. D-205 Nursing Mothers in the Workplace (new for input)

f. C-2 Board Meetings (revised – for input)

The Board reviewed and discussed the above policies. Sarah Haley moved to adopt above Policies G1, D2, D205, and C2, Christopher Smid seconded; motion carried 5-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to rescind above Policies G1A and G1B, and Procedure D2R, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 5-0.

**11. Action on Personnel Contract** - None

**12. Set Next Board Meeting & Agenda Building:** The next MSD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 7:00PM at MSES. This will be the reorganizational meeting.

**13. Executive Session 1 VSA § 313 (1-9) (a) (b) -** Clarence Haynes moved to have the Board enter Executive Session at 8:50PM for a student concern, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to have the Board exit Executive Session at 9:15PM, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 5-0.  
No Action Taken

**14. Other Lawful Business** - None

**15. Adjournment** - Christopher Smid moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16PM, Sara Haley seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes taken by Sarah Haley

Transcribed by Susan Rosso

## Select Board Minutes

March 5, 2015 Special Meeting - Approved



### SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

7:05 pm

**BOARD PRESENT:** H. Childress, M. Lamson, S. Moyer, T. Redfield, J. Webber

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Laura Castle, Bill Reed.

Town Clerk Laura Castle called the meeting to order, after the swearing-in of Jim Webber and Terry Redfield after their recent election to the Board.

**Election of Selectboard Officers:** Jim Webber nominated Terry Redfield as Chair of the Board; H. Childress 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried.] Terry accepted the nomination. J. Webber nominated Herb Childress for clerk, S. Moyer 2nd [all in favor, motion carried.] Herb accepted the nomination. H. Childress nominated Mike Lamson as vice chair; T. Redfield 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried.] Mike accepted the nomination.

**Review of Election Results:** The Board welcomed Bill Reed for a new term as Road Commissioner. The Board will address the

*continued on page 6...*

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job descriptions of the Road Foreman and Road Commissioner in forthcoming meetings. The Board will set the responsibilities of the Town Constable in forthcoming meetings. From the Selectboard Handbook:



If, however, the town so votes, the constable only has the power to:

- serve civil or criminal process;
- assist the health officer in the discharge of his or her duties;
- destroy dogs when so ordered;
- kill injured deer;
- remove disorderly people from town meeting; and
- collect taxes, if no tax collector is elected

There is no requirement that an elected constable have criminal justice training, however the voters can restrict the law enforcement activities of those constables who are untrained. 24 VSA § 1936a.

**Other Business:** There was a ballot petition inadvertently omitted from the ballot regarding Mentor Connector; we will discuss whether to fund this item directly. We will also discuss whether to contribute \$5,000 directly to the Town Audit reserve fund, as was approved by voters at 2014 Town Meeting. We may also discuss whether to do a reduced contract with the Sheriff's Department from Town budget.

**Adjourn:** J. Webber moved to adjourn, M. Lamson 2nd [all in favor, motion carried]. Meeting adjourned 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Childress, Clerk

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## **Select Board Minutes - Regular Meeting March 12, 2015 - Approved**

**CALL TO ORDER:** T. Redfield called the meeting to order 7:00

**BOARD PRESENT:** T. Redfield, S. Moyer, J. Webber, M. Lamson

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Sally Achey, Jenny Talke Munyak, Bill Reed, Laura Castle

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- Feb 26 Special: M. Lamson moves to accept as presented. S. Moyer 2nd. [M. Lamson – aye, S. Moyer – aye, T. Redfield – aye, J. Webber – abstain, motion carried]
- Mar 1 Special Meeting: Tabled
- Mar 5 Special:

M. Lamson moves to accept as presented. S. Moyer 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

**Public Comments:** None

### **Town Officers:**

- Sally Achey, Lister presents Certificate 4157 "No Appeal Pending" form: J. Webber moves to approve Certificate 4157 No Appeal Pending. S. Moyer 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]
- Sally Achey talks about Homestead Declaration which must be filed by every household before Apr. 15 to Oct. 15. Penalties are 3% or 8% of the education property tax depending on whether Resident or Non-resident tax rate is higher. The Selectboard will discuss at an upcoming meeting.
- Treasurer's Report – Jenny present month ending financial report

### **Town Office Positions:**

- John Arsenault – Accepted Trustee of Lois Fund and 3 year Planning Commission
- Trustee of Copeland Cemetery – Dan McKeen received 24 write-in votes. Laura will contact.
- 1 year auditor – Jim Georg – Laura will contact for interest
- 2 year auditor – Jim Georg, John Arsenault received enough write-ins. Laura will contact for interest
- Open positions: Town Agent
- M. Lamson moves to have Laura send letters of inquiry to people who held positions last year for interest in accepting appointments. J. Webber 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

**Town Lands:** Regarding the West Street property: C. Larson offered to assist with drafting easement language to add to the West Street property deed regarding the walking trail.

**Road Commissioner Report:** Bill back-bladed some of the high spots on muddy roads. He is anticipating a rough mud season although weather has been cooperating – cold nights and wind to dry

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continued from page 6...

Has been cleaning up the sand pile

Bill wants to get the box culvert project (which a bid was awarded last year) on North Street out to bid in March. M. Lamson moves to allow Bill and Laura to move forward with the bid process for the North Street box culvert project. [M. Lamson – aye, S. Moyer – aye, T. Redfield – aye, J. Webber – abstain, motion carried]

Bill inquires if we will be posting roads. T. Redfield moves to instruct Bill to post the roads at his discretion. J. Webber 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

Brian Sanderson – District 3 Project Manager – Bill/Terry will need to meet discuss MTS highway financial plan  
**Solid Waste:** Discussion of impending regulations regarding yard and leaf debris collection. M. Lamson will inquire best practice suggestions from Pam Clapp

**Poultney River Walk:** M. Lamson will inquire with members of the public via Front Porch and Magnet for interest in joining a committee to begin the feasibility study.

**Correspondence:**

- Bob Zorn correspondence. Will forward to attorney
- Weight permit requests and checks from from Camp Precast, Markowski Excavating.
- VTRANS – letter acknowledging the Selectboards concerns of icing on Route 140
- Granville Rescue squad – letter requesting if the town has a policy on having the road crew respond when there are road conditions inhibiting rescue service. Per Bill he is often called by the VT State Police in emergencies and the road crew responds. Since the dispatch was from New York, there appears to be some confusion. Bill will contact Washington County Control.



- VLCT – Selectboard Institute notice

**Financials/Board Orders:** T. Redfield moves to approve the board orders as presented. M. Lamson 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

**Legal:** vTerry will forward the Zorn correspondence to Gary Kupferer

**Other Business:** J. Webber looked at the recently adopted employment policy and inquires if there was input from the employees. Bill Reed has reviewed and provided input.

M Lamson moves to adjourn. J. Webber 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned 9:18 pm.

Mike Lamson, Clerk



## Building Committee

March 4, 2015 - Approved Minutes

**Members Present:** David Munyak, Kimberly Mathewson, Patty Kenyon, David Wright, Maureen McCormack, Kristal Hier, Lois Dansereau, Michael Beattie, Fred Bradley, Tom Hurcomb, and Robin Chesnut-Tangerman at 7:22pm. **Members Absent:** Patty McWilliams

**Public Present:** Peter Stevenson

**Call to Order:** D Munyak called the meeting to order at 7:11pm

**I. Minutes:** A. Approval of February 19 minutes. - F Bradley moved to approve the minutes as amended, M McCormack seconded and the motion carried.

**II. Public Comments:** None

### III. Sub-Committee Reports

#### A. Public Relations

1. Town Meeting Food Sale recap - D Munyak thanked P Kenyon for leading the charge, P McWilliams for making the post card and mailing happen, and T Hurcomb for updating finance and funding board for the food sale. Total take was \$551.05. Overall the sale went well and was well worth the efforts. All agreed that hosting this event creates community and is more than just fundraising for the building.

2. FPF-update on postings - D Munyak will post a thank you note on FPF for all the food donations and to the people coming in and supporting us. Next will be a thank you to the voters for passing the funding article, Kristal will tackle that one.

#### B. Fund raising

1. Town meeting article Passed - T Hurcomb asked for numbers of vote. K Mathewson provided a print-out of unofficial results that was also posted to the town's website and will appear

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# Is it Spring Yet?



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in the Magnet. The building committee's article passed with a vote of 194 Yes and 140 No. T Hurcomb reported that last year it was 183 Yes and 143 No; in 2013 it was 2 to 1 in favor, so things are not as favorable as they were then, but staying steady.

2. Grant writer Carrie Becker – P Kenyon asked if we want to invite her to the next meeting. Committee agreed it would be great to have her attend a meeting soon. Patty will reach out and ask her to come to one of our next meetings, and let the committee know the status.

#### IV. Building & Site Design:

**A. Plans, elevations, cost estimates** – M Beattie brought a slide show of some of his past work and presented it so that the committee could get a feel for his aesthetic. After some discussion, D Munyak asked each committee member to find and bring photos of building styles and detail elements that they find appealing to the next meeting. If images are gleaned from the internet, D Munyak asked members to send him a link to the images so he can keep a running log.

D Munyak also told the committee of a suggestion that came from Herb Childress after viewing the town office picture board at the food sale. Herb suggested that it would be interesting to look at those pictures and rate them as to their appeal and appropriateness for us.

The discussion moved to the size of the building – one story or two – and whether or not a two story building would need a sprinkler system. M Beattie reported that he had done some research on the latest codes (NFPA & IBC) and gave the committee an overview of the basics. In short, making the building more fireproof, through the use of better grade materials, can mean that a 2 story or even a 3 story building would not have to include a sprinkler system.

**V. Project Scheduling:** D Munyak reported a discussion he had with Mike Lamson at the food sale. Mike stated that he would like the Select Board to be more involved in the building committee's process now that brownfield cleanup is done and we are moving forward. The Building Committee will be happy to have the Select Board more involved.

Fundraising was brought up again, with M Beattie asking the question of what are our expectations are from Carrie Becker. P Kenyon will give Carrie some of the information we've gathered so far and try to find out more about what she is willing to do for us.

T Hurcomb felt that we will need to be showing some progress to the public in the near future. P Kenyon inquired about the

status of the wastewater permit. D Munyak will check with the engineer about that permit and when we might expect that to arrive.

M Beattie offered that there are some other site things that can be worked on while we are doing the building planning. Storm water run-off plans and so forth. Hilary Solomon has volunteered to help with that process, she could come and talk to us about the options.

#### VI. Other Business: None

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2015 at library

**Adjourn:** M McCormack moved to adjourn at 8:17pm. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Patty Kenyon, Building Committee Clerk



## Building Committee

March 19, 2015 - Approved Minutes

**Members Present:** Patty Kenyon, David Munyak, Patty McWilliams, Kristal Hier, Lois Dansereau, Maureen McCormack, David Wright at 7:20pm **Members Absent:** Kimberly Mathewson, Michael Beattie, Fred Bradley, Tom Hurcomb, Robin Chesnut-Tangerman

**Public Present:** Peter Stevenson, Eileen Stevenson

While waiting for a quorum to start the official meeting the committee began with a discussion and viewing of the pictures that committee members brought with them as part of the homework assignment from last meeting. David Wright arrived at 7:20pm, discussion continued on pictures prior to calling the meeting to order

**Call to Order:** D Munyak called the meeting to order at 7:58pm

#### I. Minutes:

**A. Approval of March 4 minutes.** – M McCormack moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2015 as presented, K Hier seconded and the motion carried.

#### II. Public Comments: None

#### III. Sub-Committee Reports

##### A. Public Relations

1. FPF - update on postings – D Munyak reported that he posted a Thank You for food sale bakers, helpers and donors. K Hier will post a Thank You to the townspeople for their support of our article at the polls.

##### B. Fund raising

1. Carrie Becker update – P Kenyon reported that there is a

continued on page 9...

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802-235-2000 middletown springs closed mon. & tues.



continued from page 8...

meeting set for March 26 at 7pm at the library with Carrie Becker and the fundraising sub-committee. Any other interested members are also welcome to attend.

#### IV. Building & Site Design:

**A. Review homework:** images of "appropriate" architectural styles and elements that we'd like to see emulated. – Discussion took place at the beginning of the meeting and will also be revisited, with more photos when M Beattie (architect) is present.

**B. What does a VT Town Office Look Like display exercise** – Tabled for a future meeting.

**C. Plans, elevations, cost estimates** - Tabled for a future meeting.

**V. Project Scheduling** - D Munyak left a message for Frank Parent (Engineer) to ask about well/septic permit status, has not heard back.

**VI. Other Business:** None

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at library

**Adjourn:** M McCormack moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm - meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Patty Kenyon, Building Committee Clerk



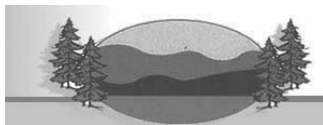
### Seeking Committee Members for River Trail Feasibility Study!

As discussed and voted on at town meeting, the Select Board will work to complete a feasibility study of creating a recreation trail along the Poultney River. The Select Board is seeking volunteers to join the committee to guide and explore the process.

Although details are to be determined by the committee, activity may include identifying routes, researching and meeting with other communities who have completed similar endeavors, identifying the process and challenges, potential grant opportunities and weighing community support. The committee will most likely meet monthly or bimonthly in the evenings. If you are interested in joining the committee and have the time to attend the meetings please send me an email or give me a call at 235-1466.

Thanks for your support!

Mike Lamson, mikelamson@gmail.com



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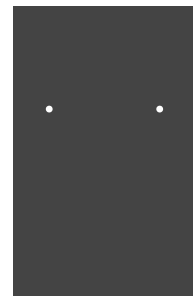
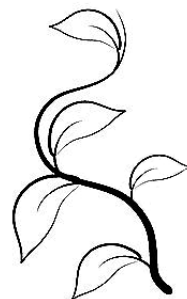
## Maple Festival Was A Sweet Success!

It was a cold and stormy day, but that did not stop the 26th Annual Maple Festival from being a warm, sweet success! There are many volunteers to thank for making it one of the best ever!

Warmest thanks to Sissy the soup maker and the many bakers for the wonderful maple treats. A big thank you to Maureen McCormack and Mary Lou Willits who helped in the kitchen; to Kathy Feeley, Tara Beattie and Ruth Goodrich in the dining room, to Dylan Manning for manning the cotton candy machine and transporting it, GMC Intern Eden Aiken for serving sugar on snow, Lois Dansereau for the table decorations, Don Hemenway as cashier, Rosemary Moser in the children's room and Ken Carter who stood outside in the cold demonstrating the outdoor sugar making operation. Thanks go out to Paul Morgan for providing music as well as Dan McKeen and Asa Carter, who joined in. Thanks to Fred Bradley for setting up the outdoor equipment and providing the sugar on snow equipment and syrup for it. Special thanks go to Mahar family for working overnight to have fresh, hot syrup to sell and to Ryan Mahar for helping with the talk on the history and technology of sugar making.

Of course, the success is also due to the businesses, artisans and individuals who generously donated items for the raffle and silent auction, and to all who purchased items, raffle tickets and maple goodies.

The Maple Festival Committee and the Historical Society Board deeply appreciate this community support.



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## Community Church News

Being part of a Christian community can mean much more than attending Sunday services. At the Community Church during the week, several small groups of folks meet to study and dig into the Bible together. This is an informal opportunity to begin and to deepen our understanding of God's love and his plans for each of us. You do not have to attend the Church in order to take part in these small group studies.

There are groups for both men and women. Currently, on first and third Monday nights at 6:30 pm, the Men's Study Group is delving into several of Jesus' parables, looking beyond the children's stories many of us have heard, and finding profound truths about God, humanity, the world and the future. The Ladies' Study Group, every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am, is exploring the subject of love and relationships, and how we can extend our love to those with whom we may disagree or even be in conflict - in our families, with friends, and the greater community.

For further information on groups, please contact the Community Church Interim Minister Adam Robles: office 235-2386 or email [mscchurch@gmail.com](mailto:mscchurch@gmail.com) As always, our doors are open to everyone for the 10 am Sunday morning worship service.

**Remember to visit:**  
**The Town's Official Website**  
**[www.middletownsprings.vt.gov](http://www.middletownsprings.vt.gov)**  
**All the Latest News and In-Depth**  
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## Fire Department News

It's hard to believe we are more than a quarter of the way through the year already. March has been a very busy month for the fire department and the board of trustees. The fire department has responded to several calls during the month of March including a chimney fire, an automobile accident, assisting an ambulance on a squad call, lift assist with Poultney Rescue, and mutual aid to Poultney for a structure fire and a fire alarm activation. The Board of Trustees and the MSVFD finalized the sale of Rescue 534. The purchase of the Rescue/Engine from the Town of West Rutland is moving forward. As soon as the newly acquired Rescue/Engine arrives, training with the apparatus will begin immediately.

The Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department and the Board of Trustees are very pleased with the outstanding amount of community support that has been received this year. Our budget passed by a large margin which was a great feeling. It showed community support, and it also was a huge boost in morale throughout the fire department and the association. The fire department has been collaboratively working together this year. The fire department and the Board of Trustees have been very supportive of each other, and this has spread throughout the community.

MSVFD and the Board of Trustees showed their appreciation to the community for their support by hosting a "Thank You for Your Support" dinner which took place on March 31st. Great food and conversation was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to everyone who attended. MSVFD and the Board of Trustees has been working diligently to open lines of communication with the community. The first three months of 2015 have been very successful. Our goal is to continue in this direction and keep improving throughout this year for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Middletown Springs Fire Association and the  
 Middletown Springs Fire Department Membership



In response to our Maple Festival mailing to property owners, seven new families joined the Historical Society! Did we miss you? You can join as an individual for \$10 or a family for \$15.

Our address is PO Box 1121, Middletown Springs, VT 05757

*The Middletown Springs Historical Society is the community center for the understanding and appreciation of the evolving history of Middletown Springs.*

— MSHS Vision Statement



## Legislative Update

Representative Robin Chesnut-Tangerman

"The game is afoot!" That is what Sherlock Holmes would say to Dr. Watson when the wheels started turning, when the cat and mouse maneuvers began. When the chess got complicated.

Alright, so life in the Legislature isn't quite that dramatic, but the game is serious. At this point in the legislative session the House has shifted from developing policy to the political art of passing, or blocking, it. Have no doubt, there is still plenty of policy creation work to be done. The Natural Resources and Energy Committee, on which I sit, is now reviewing solar siting policy - where and how solar farms get developed, and Agriculture is looking at raw milk sales, to name just two areas of ongoing action.

But the "game" has moved from committee rooms to the House floor where the Revenue and Spending bills were just debated and passed. There were odd alliances, there were amendments proposed, amendments amended, withdrawn, and substituted. There were eloquent pleas, mind-numbing rows of numbers, political maneuvers, and long roll call votes. There is, or will be, spin doctoring and accusations of how the other guys are hurting "real Vermonters" who we, the good guys, are representing. The game is afoot.

Next we take up the Education, Healthcare, and Water Quality Bills, the amendments are piling up and the game will continue. But it is only the first round - because House bills will go to the Senate and their bills will come to us and the wrangling will begin anew.

But the amazing thing is that, unlike Washington DC, this works. The challenges and amendments can make the bills stronger and can clarify and define the underlying principles. For example, I recently introduced a small amendment to bill H.108, "an act relating to electrical installations". My amendment was accepted as friendly by the committee and approved by the full

House. Colleagues from all sides of the aisle agreed that it improved the underlying bill. The next day a Republican colleague introduced another amendment, essentially piggybacking onto mine. Hers was also approved by the full House and you know what? It also made the bill better. And that is how it is supposed to work.

If you want the details, or want to express an opinion, drop me a line or give me a call.

rchesnt-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us

235-2050 (home)

282-5535 (cell phone in Montpelier, no service at home)

Alright, so life in the Legislature isn't quite that dramatic, but the House has recently shifted from meticulously developing policy to the political art of passing - or blocking - it.



## MSES Pre-K Screening

**Tuesday, April 21st**

**8:30-11:00 at Middletown Springs Elementary School**

MSES will be conducting screenings for Middletown Springs children whose parents are interested in having them attend the Pre-K program. Children who are least three years old but have not turned five by September 1, 2015 are eligible. Please call the school at 235-2365 with questions or to set up a screening appointment.

## RSVP Bone Builders

at the Community Church

**Monday & Wednesday at 8:30am**



## Middletown Springs Building Committee

The regular meeting times for the Building Committee are 7 pm on the **first Wednesday** and the **third Thursday** of each month. Meetings take place at the MSHS Dining Room or the Library

*All meetings are open to the public.*

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## RAVNAH

Community Health Clinics – April 2015

### April Foot Care/Blood Pressure Clinics

The cost of the foot clinic is \$10. For

more information please call 775-0568.

Thursday, 4/23/15, Fair Haven, Appletree Apartments,  
7 Appletree Lane, 9:30 am

Wednesday, 4/29/15, Rutland, Godnick Center, 1 Deer  
St., 12:30 pm

### Cholesterol Screenings offered for \$30 every month:

Clinics held at the Rutland Office are the 1st  
Wednesday - call 775-0568 for an appointment.

Clinics held at the Dorset Office are the 3rd  
Wednesday - call 362-1200 for an appointment.

### Travel Well with RAVNAH's Travel Health Clinic!

RAVNAH is the region's resource for comprehensive and safe travel health services including vaccines and individualized disease prevention plans to international travelers. RAVNAH's Travel Health Clinic is staffed by the incomparable Cathleen Paulin, who has in-depth knowledge of travel medicine, educational measures and tips and tricks for staying safe and healthy overseas. Call her at 802.770.1536 for a personal appointment or email [gohealth@ravnah.org](mailto:gohealth@ravnah.org).

### Vermont Ostomy Group UOAA

The Vermont Ostomy Group has been formed and is facilitated by fellow Ostomates with the support of certified Wound Ostomy and Continence nurses for the purpose of providing support, education and information for the person with a bowel and bladder diversion. The Vermont Ostomy Group is dedicated to serving both individuals and their families in the Central Vermont area.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse and Hospice meeting rooms at 7 Albert Cree Drive Rutland Vermont, and are free and open to the public. Light beverages and snacks will be provided. Please contact Kate Lawrence, MSN, RN, CWOCN at 802 770-1682 for more information.

## 23rd Annual Road Race To Benefit Kids On The Move Pediatric Rehabilitation Program



The Vermont Sports Medicine Center's 23rd Annual 5k Run/Walk, one of the most popular road race events in the region, will be held on Saturday, April 25. The race starts and ends at Vermont Sports Medicine Center at 5 Albert Cree Drive in Rutland and will take place in rain, snow or shine. The 5K Run/Walk raises funds for Kids on the Move, RAVNAH's Pediatric Rehabilitation program and the Vermont Adaptive Ski program.

Registration on the day of the race is from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Participants are encouraged to pre-register prior to race day. The Kids Fun Run starts at 10:00 a.m. immediately followed by the 5K run/walk.

Refreshments will be provided for all runners and walkers. Prizes will be awarded for 1st place in all runner age groups.

Pre-registration entry fees are \$5 for kids under 10 years old. \$10 for kids 10 to 17 and \$15 for adults. For more information, or to register, please contact Christine Hoard at [christineh@ravnah.org](mailto:christineh@ravnah.org), Marc Miele at [marc@ravnah.org](mailto:marc@ravnah.org) or visit <http://www.ravnah.org/kids-5k-road-race.html>



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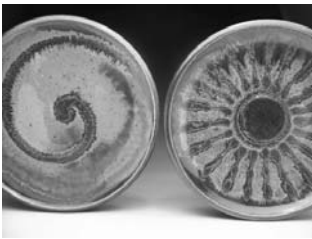
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## Sunshine Plate Club Potluck

Saturday, April 25th  
4-7 pm or so

Please join the Seidner and Rosenmiller family at Rising Meadow Pottery for a paint our own pottery event and potluck with local live music! This event is free and all are welcome. Of course, good vibe donations always appreciated. Look for more details on the local Front Porch Forum or call 235-9429 for more information.

## The Dream Center Holds Bow Raffle

The Dream Center of Rutland is holding a limited ticket Bow Raffle to help raise money for their newest program, The Dream Academy. The Dream Center was started by Linda Justin and her husband Bill Beckim in 2013 as a way to serve their community. Their efforts were featured recently on a Fox News story. (To view the video - <http://video.foxnews.com/v/4109421569001/>)

The Dream Center is unlike other organizations in that it doesn't offer services – just unconditional love and acceptance. It is all about building people instead of rescuing them. Offering a hand up instead of a hand out. It's like building a house – you first have to dig the hole and put in a strong foundation before the walls go up.

The Dream Academy starting in July will help expose children to the corporate world and to the world of the arts to help children become excited about seeing their dreams come true. The bow raffle is a fundraiser that will help not only with the Dream Academy but it will also enable the center to take children to places they are currently unable to go. The children served in Rutland come from underprivileged homes where either the parents don't work at all or struggle just to survive from day to day.

The bow raffle is 2 tickets for \$25 and 5 tickets for \$50. There are only 300 tickets and the drawing is June 1st. The bow itself is a Matthews Creed VS 75 lb hunting bow and included in the purchase is an Apex Site & Rip Cord Rest with fitting. To purchase tickets contact Linda at 802-236-0407

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## Tinmouth Contra Dance

Friday, April 17, 2015 at 8:00  
Beginners's Session 7:45-8:00  
Tinmouth Community Center



April 's contra dance will feature Quena Crain calling with live music by Cedar Stanistreet on fiddle and Roger Kayle on guitar. The dance will be held at the Tinmouth Community Center on Friday April 17 from 8 – 11 pm. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner. If you are a beginner, come at 7:45 for a beginner's session. There will be live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing and a fun night for all.

The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center on the third Friday of the month. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$9, \$7 for teens and free for children 12 and under. Refreshments will be available to benefit the dance fund. Call 235-2718 or 446-2928 for info or directions or [www.Tinmouthvt.org](http://www.Tinmouthvt.org). Like us on Facebook at Tinmouth Contra Dance. Mark your calendars for our upcoming dances: May 15 and June 19.

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802-235-9320

[christensen@vermontel.net](mailto:christensen@vermontel.net)

## Men's Community Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 28, at 8 am  
Middletown Springs School

*Come join us if you are able  
for this informal monthly event*

## Calendar

### April

Building Committee	Thurs	16	7 pm	Library
Tinmouth Contra	Fri	17	8pm	Community Ctr
Pre-K Screening	Tues	21	8:30 - 11 am	School
Library Trustees	Tues	21	9 am	Library
Friends of the Library	Tues	21	7 pm	Library
Select Board	Thurs	23	7 pm	Town Office
Book Group	Thurs	23	7 pm	Library
Movie - Maleficent	Fri	24	7 pm	Library
Sunshine Plate Club	Sat	25	4 pm	Rising Meadow
Fountain of Youth	Wed	29	Noon	Young at Heart

### May

Movie - Into the Woods	Fri.	1	7 pm	Library
Knitting Circle	Mon	4	7-9pm	Library
Building Committee	Wed	6	7pm	Library
First Response	Thurs	7	6:30 pm	Fire House
Historical Society	Thurs	7	7:30 pm	MSHS
School Board	Thurs	14	6 pm	School
Select Board	Thurs	14	7 pm	Town Office

*Calendar Events – subject to change.*

*When in doubt, please check with the organization for details.*



## Messages to The Magnet:

**Mailing Address:** *The Magnet*, PO Box 1134,  
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**Deadline for Copy:** 1st of every month

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such should be directed to the above address or  
emailed to [middletownnews@yahoogroups.com](mailto:middletownnews@yahoogroups.com)

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Staff Photographer: *Emmett Francois*

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## **Thank You!**

The volunteers at *The Magnet* would  
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