

Middletown Springs Selectboard • Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting • June 9, 2022
Start time 6pm

BOARD PRESENT: At the town office: Terry Redfield, Patty Kenyon, Heather Grier. Via Zoom: Neil Russell at 7:16pm.

TOWN OFFICERS PRESENT: At the town office: none. Via Zoom: Sarah Grimm – Auditor, Hilary Solomon – Planning Commission, Pat Hemenway – Lister, Kristal Hier – Library Trustee, Kimberly Bushnell – Librarian/Town Moderator, Bill Reed – Road Commissioner/Highway Foreman at 7:07pm.

PUBLIC PRESENT: At the town office: none. Via Zoom - Peter & Aileen Stevenson, Ron Masleh, Laura Derrenderinger, Matt Heering at 6:45pm, Kathye Reed at 7pm.

CALL TO ORDER: Heather called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

ARPA Funds discussion:

Call for comments to the audience:

Laura Derrenderinger came to present some ideas for the Friends for Education group. They are proposing to spend some funds on a dual-purpose outdoor learning and community event space at the elementary school. They have a written proposal added as an addendum to these minutes. Full implementation of the plan they estimate will cost between \$70 and \$80 thousand.

Pat Hemenway joined representing the town listers to put her support behind using a portion of the funds to digitize land records as digitally accessible property records would be a big help to them.

Kimberly Bushnell & Kristal Hier joined representing the library. The trustees will be discussing their needs and ideas at their next meeting and will communicate those to the Selectboard after that meeting.

Patty as the Town Clerk spoke reinforced the idea of using funds for a broader and more accessible land records digitization process.

She presented a list of Local Hazard Mitigation priorities which the board might look at as suggested by Herb Childress the Emergency Management Director. That list is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

Patty also spoke as a Selectboard member pointing out the town's well documented need for facilities - salt & sand shed, highway garage, transfer station, and accessibility at the library.

The board moved on to regular meeting business at approximately 6:40pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 26, 2022 Regular Meeting

Terry moved to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022 meeting as presented, Heather 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: Herb Childress – Nothing tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS: Nothing tonight.

TOWN OFFICERS: Town Clerk / Treasurer / Delinquent Tax Collector / Auditors / Listers –

Nothing tonight.

TOWN HIGHWAY: Road Commissioner Report – moved on to town lands at 6:45pm and will come back to highway when Bill arrives.

Other Town Highway – moved to later in the agenda.

TOWN LANDS - New Building Project – In progress: Peter waiting on pricing on the water system. Robin and Peter have talked with Naylor & Breen – timetable for us getting revised pricing is 2 to 3 weeks after June 2nd bid deadline, so we are looking at another week or two.

Patty reached out to VLCT regarding the Builders Risk policy. They are aware and have our draft contract, but before they can get us a quote they need the finalized contract and the updated estimate.

Peter will check on the VTrans curb cut permit status with Frank Parent.

Other Building Projects: MSVFD, MTS Library, 577 West Street site – nothing.

SOLID WASTE: Short discussion on transfer station protocols and if there are some small things we can do to make things easier, more streamlined, and safer.

Employee evaluations which are due to be completed is a good time to talk to Glen about making improvements.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence for the board in the last two weeks.

BOARD ORDERS: Processing Payroll / Municipal Bills –

Terry moved to approve the board orders as presented, Patty 2nd. All in favor, motion carried.

Went back to highway/road commissioner at 7:10pm

TOWN HIGHWAY: Road Commissioner Report – At 7:10pm Bill reported as follows.

- Continuing to work on Ditching & Grading –
- Roadside mower is canceled for this year. Been trying to find an alternative.
 - Terry called the Town of Wells – to see if they were able to help us out – they have a mower and tractor. He hasn't heard back.
 - Bill is in communication with Winmill to see if they would rent their mower to the town. Waiting to hear back
 - Bill would like to thank the Tarbell's for mowing what they have on Rt 140 on their own.
- Still waiting on patching contractor for pricing and availability for stop gap patching on the older section of 140.

Other Town Highway – Nothing tonight.

LEGAL: Nothing tonight.

OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS:

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: (In Person w/Zoom access)

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 7pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (if necessary) – Nothing tonight.

ADJOURN: Terry moved to adjourn at 7:21pm, Heather 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Patty Kenyon, Clerk

ARPA funding addendums on following pages.

SB Minutes of June 9, 2022 – ARPA Funding written submissions.

From: Friends for Education, Middletown Springs Elementary School
To: Select Board and Middletown Springs Community
Subject: Proposal for Dual-Purpose Outdoor Learning and Community Event Space

SUMMARY

When children spend significant time outdoors, they are healthier—physically, mentally, and social-emotionally—and they perform better academically. We would like to explore using a portion of the town’s forthcoming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to create an **outdoor learning and community event space** that would not only allow the students of Middletown Elementary School to reap these benefits but also provide all residents of the town a space where they can safely gather and hold events. Constructing this outdoor space would be a meaningful way to support our town in its resilience efforts.

Rationale to fund outdoor learning for Middletown Springs children:

1) Physical, mental, and social emotional health benefits:

Use of outdoor learning and outdoor space is a *research informed tool* to support child mental health, physical health. Pediatricians, psychiatrists and family physicians are in consensus that time spent outdoors has significantly positive effects for children.

- Outdoor education supports mental, social emotional health, and in October 2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics declared a national emergency in children’s mental health. ([Source](#))
- Outdoor education supports healthy weight in children. Children across the US became overweight and obese at significantly increased rates during the pandemic. Elementary aged children suffered disproportionately from this. ([Source](#)) More children now suffer from cardiac disease, diabetes in addition to the mental health risks from potential bullying and peer exclusion related to being overweight. Time outdoors during the school day directly correlates with supporting children to achieve healthy weights. ([Source](#))
- Pediatricians now prescribe outdoor time to support behavioral and mental health problems instead of initiating medications. Studies have found outdoor time has to effect to regulating behavior. Instead of writing medication prescriptions for diagnoses such as ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyper Activity Disorder), physicians have started writing prescriptions for specific amounts of time outdoors. ([Source](#))
- An analysis of three hundred peer-reviewed studies concluded that “current literature supports a positive relationship between nature contact and children’s health, especially

for physical activity and mental health, both public health priorities. The evidence supports pediatricians in advocating for **equitable** nature contact for children in places where they live, play, and **learn.**” ([Source](#))

- Outdoor Education is Trauma Informed Practice ([Source](#))

2) Academic gains with learning outside:

- Significant daily time outdoors during the school day improves academic achievement. There is “strong evidence (that) time in nature has a rejuvenating effect on attention; relieves stress; boosts self-discipline; increases physical activity and fitness; and promotes student self-motivation, enjoyment, and engagement.” ([Source](#))

Preliminary Budget for Outdoor Education Infrastructure

Below is an initial very rough estimate of what it might cost to funding an outdoor classroom/event space, which includes both building a safe outdoor structure and investing in teacher training and equipment to make ongoing outdoor education possible.

Physical structure	Materials and labor to construct a physical structure with a roof – outdoor classroom pavilion structure without walls, roughly 30 feet by 30 feet (material cost currently estimated at \$20K)	\$30,000
	Composting toilet to allow for extended time outdoors (optional)	\$10,000
Professional development	Support for teachers, staff and school leaders to intensively learn and improve how to teach academics outdoors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Paying for professional development-continuing education classes. (local Vermont expertise for teaching teachers available via Shelburne Farms, VINS, North Branch Nature Center, Vermont Wilderness School, Antioch University, and Out Teach https://www.out-teach.org/what-we-do/professional-development/) ii. Paying for outdoor content expert teacher coaches to come to campus in Middletown Springs and co-teach outdoor classes such as reading, writing, math, science, and art iii. Incentivizing teachers to use outdoor space by providing professional recognition and 	\$20,000

	credentials for teachers who show they take children outside for academic instruction daily.	
Outdoor clothing	Ensures children, teachers and school staff have appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities. Example	\$5,000–\$10,000
Partner organizations	Funding for partner organizations with expertise in outdoor learning to provide support to the teachers by taking the children outside for academic instruction – providing experiences and curriculum aligned with current requirements.	\$5,000–10,000
		TOTAL \$70,000–80,000

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Priorities list
WORKING DRAFT 06/26/2019

Appendix C: Mitigation Actions from the 2009 Plan A-3

Mitigation Action	Who is Responsible	Approx. Time Frame & Potential Funding Sources	2019 Status Update
Install a humidity/temperature monitor in vault to better track and regulate conditions.	Town Clerk / Selectboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Med Term • Local Resources 	This remains a priority. Capital planning underway for a new town office. Not a natural hazards priority and therefore is no longer addressed in this plan.
Construct a building to house the Town's sand/salt pile to prevent problems caused by runoff.	Selectboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • State and Local Resources 	This remains a priority. Capital planning underway for new town garage and salt shed. Construction of rain garden in 2019 will mitigation to some extent in the short-term.
Expand the size of the Town Office to better accommodate activities and record storage vault.	Selectboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term • Local resources 	See above.
Incorporate proposed strategies into Annual Budget and/or Capital Improvement Plan	Selectboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-Term • Local Resources 	This remains a priority.
Examine current Town Plan, bylaws and development regulations to ensure identified hazard areas are addressed	Planning Commission/ Selectboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Med-term • Municipal Planning Grant 	This remains a priority.
Acquire generators for all shelter sites.	Selectboard Shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Med-term 	This remains a priority.

Further investigate issues related underground water supply to plan for long-term needs of town such as a wastewater treatment plant. Follow recommendations in Poultney River Corridor Management Plan and SGA to address fluvial erosion hazards. Create Fluvial Erosion Hazard Zones.

Selectboard, with planning commission's assistance

Selectboard/
Agency of Natural Resources

- HSU funds
- Med Term
- Local Resources
- On-going
- Long Term

This is no longer a community priority.

This remains a priority.

end of written submissions