

## **Green Infrastructure**

### **Excerpts from Draft January 25, 2022 Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

Resident and Infrastructure Committee member Judith Wiger-Grohs said she's been discussing with Werner that what has been going on with Colonial Drive and the other paving projects in town, and she's also shared this with the Infrastructure Committee. She thinks it's beyond time to begin considering green infrastructure, such as maybe ditching each side of Colonial Drive and do plantings to mitigate stormwater runoff and pervious pavement on short sections. She said the same thing holds true on the new paving projects being considered, because the way we've been doing paving projects is just "kicking the can down the road" and the State is going to come down on us for some of this.

She said we can't keep dumping chemicals and salt into Lake Champlain, and she understands it will take great initiative and most likely greater expense, but as a member of the Infrastructure Committee she will not be able to continue approving doing things the way we've been doing them when there are more environmentally friendly ways of doing them. She said Burlington, South Burlington, Montpelier, Rutland, Charlotte and Shelburne are figuring it out and she feels it's time that Middlebury figures it out.

Middlebury resident and former member of the Infrastructure Committee Chris Robbins said she realized that Colonial Drive is already out to bid, but she suggested maybe some plantings around the catch basins, like they have done around the College library and around Marble Works.

Seeley, who is the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, said she appreciated these suggestions, but the Colonial Drive project has been in the works for 4 or 5 years, so it's difficult to make changes at this point since the project is already engineered and bid, but some of these options could be looked at in projects going forward if there is time and funding available to do it.