

1 TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY  
2 Infrastructure Committee  
3 Town Offices Large Conference Room  
4 Thursday, February 8, 2018  
5 DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
6

7 Committee Members Present: Susan Shashok, Gary Baker, Don Keeler, Jr., Heather Seeley, and  
8 Alternate Judith Wiger-Grohs. Chris Robbins, Luther Tenny and Kirk Fiske were absent, so  
9 Wiger-Grohs will be participating in voting at this meeting.  
10

11 Town Staff: Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, Director of Public Works Planning Dan Werner,  
12 Director of Public Works Operations Bill Kernan, Treasurer/Accounting Services Manager Jackie  
13 Sullivan, Wastewater Superintendent Bob Wells, Director of Planning and Zoning Jennifer  
14 Murray and Community Liaison Jim Gish. Also present were several East Middlebury  
15 Residents, Amy Sheldon of Landslide Natural Resource Planning and Roy Schiff and Brian Cote,  
16 of Milone & MacBroom.  
17

18 The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Shashok at 8:15 a.m.  
19

20 Approval of Agenda  
21

22 Shashok said there was one addition to the agenda regarding the Public Works boiler that  
23 would come after Project Updates. The agenda was approved as amended upon motion by  
24 Baker, seconded by Seeley. The vote was 5 in favor, 3 absent.  
25

26 Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2018  
27

28 Dan Werner had one change to Line 40, changing Champlain Unitarian Universalist Church to  
29 Champlain Unitarian Universalist Society.  
30

31 Keeler made the motion to approve the minutes as amended, and Baker seconded the motion.  
32 The minutes were approved with 5 in favor, 3 absent.  
33

34 Project Updates  
35

36 Werner said the water monitoring project bids had gone out and there would be a pre-bid  
37 meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, with bids opened on February 27<sup>th</sup>. He said the goal is to have  
38 an engineering recommendation to the Infrastructure Committee by their March meeting.

39  
40 Werner said the reservoir repair project bids will go out on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with a pre-bid meeting on  
41 March 14<sup>th</sup> and bids opened April 3<sup>rd</sup>. He said this will come to the Infrastructure Committee at  
42 their April meeting.

43  
44 Public Works Boiler

45  
46 Werner said he had quotes from both Plouffe's Boiler and Mechanical Services and J.W. Ryan  
47 Plumbing and Heating. He said the systems quoted were a Bosch Green Star boiler and an NTI  
48 boiler, both high efficiency boilers with separate hot water units and they will be run by  
49 propane, with plans to convert to natural gas when available. He is recommending the Plouffe  
50 bid of \$8,338 for the Bosch Green Star boiler. Ryan's bid for the NTI boiler was \$11,900.  
51 Keeler asked about the comparison of the two systems. Werner said they both have the same  
52 BTUs and both say they have greater than 92% efficiency and the mechanics are the same for  
53 both units.

54  
55 Keeler felt there were better and less expensive ways to heat the domestic hot water than  
56 through the boiler. Werner said this system heated the water on-demand so there is no  
57 storage of hot water. There was a lengthy conversation regarding system options and if Werner  
58 should look for less expensive systems.

59  
60 Seeley made the motion to recommend the Selectboard approve Plouffe's bid of \$8,338 for  
61 replacement of the Public Works boiler and hot water system. Wiger-Grohs seconded the  
62 motion. Keeler wanted the Town to look into getting natural gas sooner rather than later and  
63 remember that when looking at oil bids next spring. The motion was approved with 5 in favor,  
64 3 absent.

65  
66 Dufrense Group Engineering Agreement – Water System Study

67  
68 Werner said that other than the small amendment made, the agreement had been approved by  
69 Project Lead Ashley Lucht with the State's Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. Shashok  
70 explained the change made left the exploration of an alternate supply to Exchange Street area  
71 more open ended without specifying the Happy Valley Road connecting loop.

72  
73 Shashok said Chris Robbins would like to have them document times and dates of water leaks  
74 and frozen pipes. Shashok said she thinks the history of where leaks happen is important, but  
75 isn't sure how detailed it needs to be.

76

77 Seeley made the motion to recommend the Selectboard approve the Dufresne Group's  
78 Agreement for Engineering Services for preparation of a Water Model and Calibration Report  
79 for the Middlebury Water System, not to exceed \$68,000. Wiger-Grohs seconded the motion.  
80 The motion was approved with 5 in favor, 3 absent.

81

#### 82 Planning Loan Application

83

84 Werner said this loan application is for the State's Revolving Loan Program and the loan is to  
85 pay for the Water System Study. He said there is no application deadline, but the sooner it is  
86 submitted the better.

87

88 Seeley made the motion to recommend the Selectboard sign the State Revolving Loan Program  
89 funding application. Wiger-Grohs seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 in favor, 3  
90 absent.

91

#### 92 East Middlebury Flood Resiliency Project Update

93

94 Amy Sheldon, Roy Schiff and Brian Cote joined the Committee to give a project update and to  
95 go over the revised plans.

96

97 Sheldon gave a brief history of the flooding events that have impacted the East Middlebury  
98 village for many years, including the flooding of 1989, the 2008 flood that took out the Lower  
99 Plains Bridge, the 2011 flooding from Irene and the most recent flooding this past July 1<sup>st</sup>. She  
100 said we are still working with FEMA on the 2011 damage and the July 1<sup>st</sup> flooding helped form  
101 the current plans for the project.

102

103 Roy Schiff said when they began with this project several years ago, they had not looked at  
104 removing any sediment from the river. He said after the July 1<sup>st</sup> flooding, they walked the river  
105 with people from the State and it gave them a different perspective. He said the State agreed  
106 that some targeted sediment removal would not cause significant impacts and would allow  
107 water in the next flood event to pass through safely.

108

109 Schiff said the high-flow flood chutes have debris in the entrances that have cut off the river  
110 causing it to move towards Ossie Road and the village. He said the State has agreed that the  
111 entrances to those flood chutes can be cleaned of debris so that when the water levels rise it  
112 can flow away from the village. He said this will reduce the stress on the berm, and they will  
113 also be armoring the two areas where the river has moved closer to the berm. Schiff said they

114 will also be fixing and extending the flood wall. Schiff said the total cost of this project is \$1.78  
115 million and they will be seeking these funds from FEMA.

116  
117 Brian Cote went over the preliminary design of the project, that identify the flood chutes that  
118 will be opened up and the areas of sediment to reduced, as well as the areas of the Ossie Road  
119 berm to be armored.

120  
121 Shashok asked how much of the sediment would be removed, and Cote said they'd reduce it  
122 down to a 1-year flood level to allow more flood water to pass through. Keeler said he  
123 understood the need to do this, but he's concerned that the river is still constricted down by  
124 Three Mile Bridge Road and Route 7, and if the water is accelerated through East Middlebury it  
125 will put it all in this area causing the water to overflow on Route 7. Seeley said she understood  
126 that by cleaning out these areas in East Middlebury it would allow the water to spread out  
127 which slows the water down. Sheldon said that this project will increase the ability to store  
128 both water and sediment in the village area, which should mitigate the downstream flooding.  
129 She said there had been an evolution of river management over the years regarding the  
130 removal of sediment, but she is now optimistic that they have a good balance.

131  
132 Cote continued reviewing the plans, describing the proposed work and proposed river crossing  
133 behind Goodro Lumber that will be used during construction.

134  
135 Shashok asked what happens to the armoring of the berm at the end of its 20-year life span.  
136 Schiff said when a lot of these "high pressured" spots get hit with a flood, it is estimated that in  
137 20 years the armoring will need some tuning up. Shashok said this committee will need to be  
138 thinking about this when considering the Capital Improvements Budget, since this will be a new  
139 maintenance item.

140  
141 Wiger-Grohs is concerned about doing these repairs and then the next storm washes them  
142 away, causing us to keep doing them. She said the 10-year floods are coming much more  
143 frequently, so she is thinking maybe we should be moving the houses on the other side of the  
144 river. Sheldon said that we may come to that at some point, but she doesn't feel we're there  
145 yet. Schiff said Wiger-Grohs brings up a good point, but now they need to prioritize the risk to  
146 these certain areas. He said their goal was to restore the dimensions of the channel, minimize  
147 impacts to habitats and reduce the flooding pressure to the village within the confines of the  
148 valley wall and the berm. He said the recent flood changed the parameters of the project to  
149 more of a maintenance mode, which is a more natural way to manage the river with less  
150 impacts.

151

152 Keeler asked if FEMA money would be available to help with this maintenance, and Sheldon  
153 said there wouldn't be FEMA funds, but there is an estimate of what this maintenance will cost.  
154 Shashok said the Town needs a better idea of what we'll need to maintain this and an estimate  
155 of how much this will cost. Keeler asked if this plan would all change if we had a flooding  
156 event like Irene before the work begins. Sheldon said not really, because they'd still armor the  
157 berms and reinforce and extend the flood wall, but the river channel would change so that  
158 would be what would change in the project.

159  
160 Shashok said the community needs to be aware prior to the bond vote, that this is a major  
161 construction project with a lot of trucks, with an estimated 880 round-trips in an area that's not  
162 used to that.

163  
164 Baker asked about where they would be taking the material that is removed from the river.  
165 Schiff said if the Town wants it they can take it to a designated location to be stockpiled, and if  
166 the Town or a landowner doesn't want it, then it will be up to the contractor to remove. Seeley  
167 said if the contractor removes this valuable material to reuse, then the value of that material  
168 should be reflected in the contract for the project. Schiff said a description of the material to  
169 be removed will be listed in the bid process.

170  
171 Seeley said she thinks this is a much better plan than the one proposed in the spring, and she  
172 thinks it will be better for properties downstream.

173  
174 An East Middlebury resident asked about replacing vegetation after the project and who would  
175 be making sure the amount of material to be removed met the plans. Schiff said these new  
176 plans actually remove very little vegetation, but they will be putting some tree cover in the  
177 rocks. He also said the Town will have a way to monitor these chutes to determine if they're  
178 getting too high.

179  
180 Jennifer Murray asked who would be monitoring the program going forward to see how well  
181 the plan is working. Schiff said someone in the town would need to agree to monitor it to  
182 check several benchmarks. He said it could be a surveyor or highway manager, but they could  
183 create some shortcuts to monitor the levels.

184  
185 Murray also asked about scheduling. Schiff said ideally they'd begin this summer and then 1-3  
186 weeks of work in each area of the project, so it could be a month or two. Ramsay said we  
187 would need a firm commitment from FEMA before taking this for a bond vote, and we'd need  
188 the commitment by mid-April in time to take it to the voters in June. Seeley thinks this should  
189 be out to bid now for summer work, so she thinks this summer would be a stretch. She said if

190 we do make the bond vote by June, we should be prepared for a higher bid on the project.  
191 Shashok said the Town also has to commit to the continued maintenance of this project before  
192 going forward.

193  
194 There was a discussion of scheduling and whether go to Selectboard at their meeting February  
195 13<sup>th</sup> with an overview. Schiff said it was worth moving forward and hope for construction this  
196 summer. It was decided that there would a brief 15 minute overview at the next Selectboard  
197 meeting and it still needs to go back to the East Middlebury residents.

198

199 Printer's Alley

200

201 Ramsay said the warranty deed from the National Bank to the Town with the comments from  
202 Bill Kernan had been sent to Town Attorney Benj Putnam. He said Putnam had incorporated  
203 these comments into the deed language and sent it to the National Bank's attorney, Jim Foley,  
204 but there has been no response from them yet. She said she is asking the Committee to make a  
205 recommendation that the Selectboard accept the proposal if all the requested changes are  
206 agreed to.

207

208 Keelers made the motion to recommend the Selectboard accept the deed, contingent on the  
209 National Bank's agreeing to the conditions. Seeley seconded the motion. The motion was  
210 approved with 5 in favor, 3 absent.

211

212 Committee Member Concerns

213

214 Since this was Susan Shashok's final Infrastructure Committee meeting, Keeler thanked her for  
215 all her time and dedication to the Town, and said it had been a pleasure working with her.  
216 Seeley also thanked Shashok for all her work. Shashok said it had been an honor serving with  
217 them all.

218

219 The next Infrastructure Committee meeting will be March 8, 2018 at 8:15 a.m.

220

221 Respectfully submitted,

222 Beth Dow