

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**  
**Public Health & Safety Committee**  
**Middlebury Police Dept Community Room**  
**Monday, Oct 16, 2017\* Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attending the meeting: Committee members Selectboard Member Laura Asermily, Gary Baker, Addison County Sheriff Don Keeler, Police Chief Thomas Hanley, Fire Chief Dave Shaw, Health Officer Tom Scanlon, MREMS Teena Betourney, Porter Hospital Mike Leyden. Others present: Public Works Director of Operations Bill Kernan, Main Street & Merchants Row Bridge Project Community Liaison Jim Gish. Absent: Selectboard Member Nick Artim, Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay

**Call to Order.** Chair Laura Asermily called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**Approval of Agenda.** Tom Hanley moved approval of the agenda. Tom Scanlon seconded the motion, which was approved by the Committee.

**Approval of Aug 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes:** Dave Shaw moved approval. Tom Hanley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Citizens Comments.** None.

**Speeding & Traffic Calming Discussion:** Discussed Buttolph Dr complaints and recommendations on social media. Tom Hanley explained that a high incidence of accidents in a region would trigger the need for traffic calming measures and we don't have that for Buttolph. Agreed that speed bumps and tables should not be pursued due to their limited effectiveness on roads. Tom Hanley explained they are most effective and appropriate for parking lots, as the College and MNFC have done. Speed Radar Displays would not be effective in Buttolph. Tom Hanley explained that these are most effective when placed where there is transient traffic (as on Main St in East Middlebury) or rotated so that people don't get used to them and ignore them. He also noted that they are expensive, need to be placed in straight stretches and require more maintenance than the force can handle. E.g., the batteries need to be changed weekly. Middlebury Police will do more speed monitoring in Buttolph on Swanage Court once equipment software is corrected to be sure they accurately captured trends. Any monitoring done thus far shows compliance. Laura stated that people still report speeding and not stopping at stop signs. It can be hard to catch speeding due to road restrictions (officer can't always hide from view) or road has curves where speed monitoring equipment can't work. Tom Hanley explained, and Don Keeler concurred, that people perceive that motorists are going a lot faster than they actually are. Discussed speed limits as another strategy used. E.G., speed reduced to 25 mph on Seminary St Ext from Happy Valley to 5 corners because of the dip at Valley View that renders it difficult to see motorists. Laura shared that we have an issue with distractedness by all road users—motorists, pedestrians and cyclists—that Middlebury Safe Routes attempts to address through its "Slow Down for a Safer Town" and Walk and Roll Day campaigns.

**Downtown parking, traffic management, emergency access:** Laura inquired if there were any issues regarding winter. None reported. Laura updated on proposed ACTR Main St bus stops and Academy St hub relocation status. The committee objected to the proposed stops at the post office as too close to crosswalks and road traffic and unsafe. Some wondered if the Ilsley Library stop on Main St was sufficient. Laura emphasized that she felt though the current design needed to be improved for the Post office stops, it was important to preserve a post office stop since it is a high use one and also a connector point. The committee didn't want to see a repeat of Merchants Row bus clustering. Don Keeler moved that the committee oppose the post office stop as a transfer point but not a drop off. Tom Scanlon seconded. Passed. Laura said she would get clarity on it. Gary Baker requested to be notified of ACTR Academy St Hub relocation working group meetings which he would like to attend.

### **Other Business**

1. **Marijuana Legalization survey/ VLCT & Town position update.** Laura reported that VLCT adopted Middlebury's proposed change to dropping the word "all" with regard to public safety concerns to be met. Some felt that online survey results could be inaccurate picture of town's position—same person responding multiple times by different email addresses. Tom Scanlon shared the Dept of Health report on marijuana legalization which he felt had a lot of helpful information and advised that we read it.
2. **Staffing/Recruitment.** Chair Laura Asermily shared her awareness of staffing and recruitment challenges for all protective service agencies. She wanted the group to begin thinking about how to expand the Safety Day that was done at Mary Hogan to reach a wider audience of high school and community members. The hope is to inspire protective services career pursuits while providing helpful safety tips.
3. **Website management.** Laura mentioned briefly that the committee members should look at their respective websites for updates and consider how to link people to the useful info that can be found at them. Teena felt MREMS website was in need of upgrading. Laura proposed a Public Health & Safety page from the Town of Middlebury website possibly modeled on the Energy Committee. It could provide useful links to the various protective services websites and public health info.

**Next Meeting.** Monday, Nov 27, 2017, 4 pm at MPD. Mike Leyden proposed we present/review/discuss the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) for Porter and Middlebury's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is an important piece of the emergency management landscape and groundwork for conducting a tabletop Hazard Mitigation scenerio to practice, probably sometime between Jan and Mar 2018. Middlebury's Hazard Mitigation Plan only addresses natural hazards and should go deeper to consider others, such as chemicals and civil unrest.

**Adjourn.** At 5:05 pm, Tom Hanley moved that the Committee adjourn. Dave Shaw seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Asermily  
Public Health & Safety Chair