

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**  
**Public Health & Safety Committee**  
**Middlebury Police Dept Community Room**  
**Monday, August 21, 2017\* Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attending the meeting: Committee members Selectboard Member Laura Asermily, Selectboard Member Nick Artim, Don Keeler, MREMS Director Teena Betourney, Police Chief Thomas Hanley, Fire Chief Dave Shaw and Health Officer Tom Scanlon. Others present: Michael Leyden, Emergency Preparedness Manager at Porter Medical Center, Rick Whitney, Sergeant Middlebury College Public Safety Department, Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay and Resident Peg Goldman.

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

**Approval of Agenda.** Nick Artim moved approval of the agenda. David Shaw seconded the motion, which was approved by the Committee.

**Approval of June 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes:** Tom Hanley moved approval of the June 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes. David Shaw seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Citizens Comments.** Peg Goldman noted that the Rapid Flashing Beacon in front of the Middlebury Inn is working well.

Kathleen Ramsay noted that East Middlebury Resident Anne Christie had called to inquire about the process for lodging a noise complaint about a very loud, low-flying helicopter which passed over her house this morning. Chief of Police Tom Hanley said that the Committee had discussed documenting noise complaints associated with the airport and decided that in order to have a single responsible entity for reporting noise complaints and following-up on them, noise complaints should be directed to the state contact at the Middlebury Airport.

Kathleen said that she had provided Anne with the contact information for Chris Beitzel, the contact for the Middlebury Airport listed on the Aviation page on the Vermont Agency of Transportation website, [vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/aviation/pdf/Complaints2016.pdf](http://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/aviation/pdf/Complaints2016.pdf). Laura Asermily said she would request a quarterly report on noise complaints from the State for the Committee.

**Emergency Response Preparedness.** Michael Leyden, Emergency Preparedness Manager at Porter Medical Center, updated the Committee on the Hospital's work on emergency preparedness, and state regulators' interest in having hospitals coordinate with local emergency responders and planners. Porter's emergency response plan has three primary areas of focus: natural events; human-driven events; and technological events. Unlike all other hospitals in Vermont, Porter is located right on the train tracks, so a hazardous materials spill or accident has been identified as the number one threat

emergency threat at the hospital. The Committee discussed plans to work toward a disaster preparedness drill, similar to the one conducted in early December last year, in the December/January timeframe.

Fire Chief David Shaw said he has not heard back from Vermont Rail on the Fire Departments suggestion that Vermont Rail provide the Town with a full supply of emergency response materials, dedicated to emergency response associated with the railroad, and keep the supply fully stocked, ideally at the Middlebury Fire Dept station on Seymour Street where it will be in close proximity to the rail bridges.

### **Downtown parking traffic management, emergency access.**

#### **Summer lessons.**

Chief Shaw noted the adjustments made by Kubricky during the installation of the temporary bridge on Merchants Row to allow the current ladder truck to access the parking lot behind the Battell Block, and thanked Jim Gish, Community Liaison for the Downtown Bridge Replacement Project, for coordinating the communication with Kubricky. Shaw expressed concern, however, about the ability to get the new ladder truck, which is due in at the end of October, down the Battell Block Driveway. Nick Artim asked Kathleen Ramsay to follow-up on the status of the temporary access road from Water Street to the Battell Block, as that would provide an alternative access to the back of the Battell building.

Police Chief Tom Hanley said that the downtown enforcement position has been missed this summer – the person in this position does more than parking enforcement, they keep an eye out for potential problems and provide an important source of information about downtown activities both back to the Police Department and to the public.

Police Chief Tom Hanley said that the stop sign installed at the top of Merchants Row at the entrance to South Pleasant Street is not enforceable – it should be a yield sign, unless the Selectboard amends the traffic sign ordinance to require a stop sign in this location, either temporarily or permanently. Chief Hanley recommends that the sign be replaced with a yield sign and will reach-out to Director of Public Works Operations Bill Kernan about the yield sign.

### **Pop up bike/ped demo project: “Vivid Midd”**

Laura Asermily briefly highlighted the bike/ped demo projects on Maple Street, Seymour Street and at the intersection of Main Street and Merchants Row. Fire Chief David Shaw said that the placement of the movable pedestrian crossing signs in the middle of the road are problematic for first responders in some locations, particularly where there is not enough room to go around them with emergency vehicles and at intersections (Chief Shaw noted that fire trucks can't go around sign in the crosswalk at Main Street and Merchants Row, as an example).

In response to inquiries, Laura noted that a larger engineering project would be required to re-configure the intersection of Elm Street, Seymour Street and Exchange Street will be required.

**Climate Economy Initiative: Transportation Future Breakout, September 18.**

Laura noted the Climate Economy Initiative, particularly the transportation future breakout on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business**

1. **Marijuana legalization survey/VLCT and Town position.** Laura noted that the Selectboard will be conducting a survey on the legalization of marijuana as it prepares to comment on VLCT's draft legislative policy against the legalization of marijuana. Don Keller noted that the Police Chiefs have not supported legalization and he felt that the League of Cities and Town shouldn't be involved in this issue.
2. **Battell Bridge.** Don Keeler expressed concern about the impact of overweight truck traffic on the Battell Bridge and suggested that the Town consider an ordinance prohibiting large truck traffic on the bridge and designate the Cross Street Bridge as a truck route.
3. **Mill Street Parking Lot.** In response to an inquiry about the dumpster in the parking lot. Health Officer Tom Scanlon noted that the owner of the restaurant has been contacted about tidying-up the area. Kathleen Ramsay noted that the new streetlights have been installed in the Mill Street lot.
4. **Health Officer Meeting in Brandon.** Health Officer Tom Scanlon reported on the Health Officer Meeting in Brandon. Points of Distribution (PODs) and a threat of a new-to-the-area tick-borne disease were discussed. Tom noted that the Middlebury American Legion has agreed to serve as a POD for the area, distributing critical supplies during a natural disaster or other public health emergency. Tom also said that the Department of Public Health is gearing-up to educational efforts on Powassan, a fast-acting, potentially life-threatening virus carried and transmitted by three types of ticks, including deer ticks, as it is estimated that currently 1% of ticks in Vermont carry the virus.

**Next Meeting.** Monday, October 16, 2017, 4 pm at MPD, if there is a need for a meeting. A quarterly report on airport noise complaints and an update on the Battell Bridge truck traffic issue might be two topics for the agenda.

**Adjourn.** At 5:11 pm, David Shaw moved that the Committee adjourn. Nick Artim seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Swinington Ramsay  
Town Manager