

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY
Public Health & Safety Committee
Middlebury Police Dept Community Room
Monday, April 10, 2017* Draft Meeting Minutes

Attending the meeting: Committee members Selectboard Member Laura Asermily, Selectboard Member Nick Artim, Gary Baker, Don Keeler, Police Chief Thomas Hanley, Fire Chief Dave Shaw, Health Officer Tom Scanlon, Parks & Recreation Director Terri Arnold, Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay and Peg Goldman.

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

Approval of Agenda. David Shaw moved approval of the agenda with the addition of the Vermont Department of Health's 3-4-50 Health Initiative. Tom Hanley seconded the motion, which was approved by the Committee.

Approval of March 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Tom Scanlon moved approval of the March 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Tom Hanley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments. None.

2017 Local Emergency Operations Plan. The Committee reviewed a draft of the Town's 2017 Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Vermont Law requires all cities and towns to update, adopt and submit their Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOP) to their regional planning commission annually, after Town Meeting Day and before May 1st. Having an up-to-date LEOP on file with the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is a prerequisite for communities wishing to apply for grants or receive full disaster funding. The LEOP provides important contact information to the State for its reference and is supported by a detailed emergency management plans developed by local public safety officials. Typographical errors were noted, and, by consensus, the Committee endorsed the LEOP and recommended its adoption to the Selectboard.

Downtown Public Bathrooms, especially at Rec Park. Parks & Recreation Director Terri Arnold noted the demand for public restrooms at Rec Park, particularly with the outside-access public bathroom at the Warming Hut/Teen Center closed due to lack of personnel to open, clean and close the bathrooms each day. The Committee supported the rental of a second porta-potty for the Recreation Center to accommodate demand. It supported framing porta-potties to improve their aesthetics as Middlebury College has done with lattice. It also supported the conditional day-time opening of the Warming Hut bathroom, if teen center staff is willing to unlock and lock it during their hours and cleaning can be arranged.

Laura Asermily noted that longer-term Rec Park public bathroom recommendations would come out of Rec Park master planning. She also noted the need for public

restrooms in the downtown and suggested that perhaps the Town should consider locating a porta-potty in the downtown – near the ACTR bus stop was mentioned as a potential location.

Canine Response Unit. Police Chief Tom Hanley updated the Committee on the status of the establishment of the canine response unit, as approved by voters at Town Meeting. After extensive research on dogs, the Department chose to purchase a Belgian Malinois due to its superior health and personality traits. The dog will be a general-purpose patrol dog, without specialty training in tracking and drug detection, due to the high number of training hours (and cost) associated with annual training required to maintain these endorsements.

Safe Routes Update. Laura Asermily updated the Committee on recent and upcoming Safe Routes activities, including the Lock and Learn bike event for college students on April 7th and the upcoming Kelly Boe Memorial Bike Ride on May 8th (rain date May 15th). She noted a recent bike-ped planning meeting with Town Planner Jenn Murray and Local Motion’s technical advisor to consider how Local Motion could help with pop-up traffic calming demonstrations in areas identified by the Committee in preparation for next rounds of VTrans bike-ped grant applications.

Peg Goldman suggested that a path along Route 7, from Rogers Road to Boardman Street, would improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Addition to the Agenda: Vermont Department of Health’s 3-4-50 Initiative. Health Officer Tom Scanlon spoke about the Department of Health’s 3-4-50 initiative. According to the Health Department’s handout, “3-4-50 is a simple concept to help us grasp the reality that 3 health behaviors (no physical activity, poor diet and tobacco use) contribute to 4 chronic diseases (cancer, heart disease& stroke, Type 2 diabetes and lung disease) that claim the lives of more than 50 percent of Vermonters.” The Health Department’s initiative suggests easy steps toward creating healthy communities to reduce disease and decrease mortality, including signature of the 3-4-50 Commitment Letter by community groups and governing bodies. By consensus, the Committee recommended that the Selectboard sign the Commitment Letter.

Next Meeting. Monday, May 15, 2017, 4 pm at MPD, if there is a need for a meeting.

Adjourn. At 4:55 pm, Tom Hanley moved that the Committee adjourn. Dave Shaw seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Swinington Ramsay
Town Manager