

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**  
**Public Health & Safety Committee**  
**Middlebury Police Dept Community Room**  
**Monday, Feb 13, 2016\* Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attending the meeting: Committee members Laura Asermily, Police Chief Thomas Hanley, Fire Chief Dave Shaw, Gary Baker, guest Peg Goldman.

**Call to Order.** Chair Laura Asermily called the meeting to order at 4:25 pm.

**Approval of Agenda.** Gary Baker moved that the Committee approve the Agenda as presented. Tom Hanley seconded the motion, which was approved by the Committee.

**Approval of Jan 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes:** Dave Shaw moved and Gary Baker seconded without any changes. Passed unanimously.

**Citizens Comments.** Peg noted that the Town email listserve announced that the meeting started at 4:30 pm. Laura noted that it was erroneously posted. It should have said the meeting started at 4 pm. She agreed to be sure staff understood this as the committee's standing time going forward.

**Traffic Noise Calming (East Middlebury).** Laura reviewed information from Kathleen Ramsay specifying that VTrans will not support creation and placement of "Quiet: Neighborhood Nearby" signs at four locations recommended by Chief Hanley in response to the committee's request and that it would be helpful to come up with a Town policy with regard to possibly allowing such signs to be installed on personal property. The committee recommends that a homeowner may opt to have such a sign placed on their property but that the expense and maintenance would be born by the homeowner and also specified that such signs should not be placed in the state right of way. Homeowners can inquire with the Town on right of way specifications and traffic sign design recommendations for optimal readability and visibility.

**Traffic Speed Calming (Route 7 Middlebury School Zone).** Laura reviewed Middlebury Safe Routes efforts and recommendations shared by Eli Madden and Drew Campell. Over the years it conducted Parent Surveys that indicate that a key deterrent to walking and biking to school is crossing dangerous Route 7.

Much has been studied in Middlebury for calming traffic and improving its flow for all users. The Town learned much from the traffic calming measures studied for South St and Halliday Rd and improvements for Monroe St/Charles Ave by the high school entrance as well as Exchange St/Rt 7 where a rotary has been proposed. Other towns, like Vergennes, wrestle with calming busy traffic highway corridors and are investigating pilots and solutions from which we can learn. East Middlebury benefits from a speed radar monitor that warns transient traffic. These need to be used judiciously, as do RFBLs, or they too can become ineffective. Local Motion is willing to help advise us and can loan props and materials for trial bump outs and lane re-stripings.

**Midd Rec Park entrance:** Midd Safe Routes wondered about installing rapid flashing beacon lights (RFBLs) at the Midd Rec Park entrance by Dunkin Doughnuts. The blinking lights there are not useful--have become ignored and invisible. These could be turned off. The \$40-60/month in electric Town pays for these could be used toward a better solution. Crosswalk safety flags were added to this intersection and help but also have their limits. Walkers are taught to be intentional by making eye contact with drivers before crossing, but are challenged by drivers intent on making the green light at Cross St who zip right over the blinking light crossing. The committee recommended installing rapid flashing blinking lights consistent with what has been installed already in Town at Cross and North Pleasant streets and shutting off blinking lights when that occurs. Ideally, couple this with installation of a safety island like the one at Court St/Merchants Row since it is a very long and highly used crosswalk.

**Creek Rd entrance:** Midd Safe Routes considered rapid flashing beacon lights (RFBLs) at the Rt 7/Creek Rd intersection which is quite congested, especially after school and sport events and for those accessing the new Midd Rec Center. The road is quite wide and the crosswalk quite long and on a rise making it very challenging to cross here. Kids are taught to opt for other, safer crossings such as at Mary Hogan entrance, Cross St Bridge and Middle Rd (the entrance to the middle school) where there are signaled lights with crosswalk buttons. But people still aim to cross Route 7 at Creek Rd. The committee recommended removing crosswalk to discourage crossing here and funneling of pedestrians to safer crossings at Cross St, MHS, MUHS, MUMS entrance signaled lights until either a signaled light, rotary or road redesign is considered here that shortens the crosswalk.

**Other:** Fix timing at Cross St to allow for pedestrians to complete crossing when Rt 7 northbound traffic is given signal to turn left. Examine pedestrian cross timing at the island on Court St/merchants Row to be sure it's working (reported by pedestrian that it wasn't—may be a timing issue). Examine street lighting for improvements in seeing pedestrians. Lift shields on street lights along Main St by post office/ St Stephens. Improve sidewalk links to South Village and funneling of traffic to signaled lights as Hinesburg has done on Rt 116 at Kinney's.

**Safety Day.** Laura shared that MHS will be hosting this on May 24 during school day. Includes stations to teach fire, bus, bike/ped safety—maybe more, such as cyber safety and emergency preparedness (for climate events such as power outages). Agreed to observe how it goes this year and plan for this to be a wider community event in future.

**Next Meeting.** Monday, March 13, 4 pm at MPD.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Asermily  
Public Health and Safety Committee Chair