

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**  
**Public Health & Safety Committee**  
**Middlebury Police Dept Community Room**  
**Monday, Dec 17, 2018\* Draft Meeting Minutes**

Attending the meeting: Committee members Selectboard Member Laura Asermily, Police Chief Thomas Hanley, Fire Chief Dave Shaw, MREMS Dir Teena Betourney, Addison County Sheriff's office Don Keeler, Gary Baker. Absent: Porter EM Dir Mike Leyden, Midd College Public Safety Lisa Burchard, Health Officer Tom Scanlon, Ira Schiffer, MUHS student Kyle Mitchell. Guests: DPW Oerations Dir Bill Kernan, Rail Bridge Jim Gish, Public Works Bill Kernan, ACTR Bill Cunningham, former Town Planner Fred Dunnington.

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

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

**Approval of Oct 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Don Keeler moved and Teena Betourney seconded without any changes. Passed unanimously.

**Citizens Comments.** None.

**Winter Parking, Sidewalk & Traffic Management:** Jim Gish reported that lighting was restored to Printer's Alley area for safer egress to Marbleworks. Also that they replaced the gate in that area with higher one for better safety and will be restoring 5 parking spaces at Triangle Park when work ceases this month until spring.

Bill Kernan reported that there are been no reports of issues except for one person tripping on sidewalk at Shaffers. They have added this area to list of sidewalks to watch. Laura reported that the sidewalk from Mary Hogan Drive where it meets Court street in in bad shape with icing and should be prioritized. Bill said he intends to walk the sidewalks this year to better prioritize sidewalk repairs. Laura reported that Chris Robbins are prepared an inventory of sidewalks for Middlebury Safe Routes that could be a helpful reference. She also expressed gratitude for the work that was done to improve safety and egress on the Midd Rec Park path and behind Mary Hogan to Buttolph.

Tom Hanley noted no concerns. He said they towed 17 cars with the last snow storm in violation of the winter parking ban with the intent of communicating that people comply with the ordinance. The ban has been announced in town communications.

Dave Shaw and Teena Betourney noted that there has been a man cleaning up the town green and downtown streets that was unsafe working in the streets clearing gutters and such and should be notified to wear a safety vest if doing work in the street. The volunteer work is appreciated. The committee just wants to be sure he is safe. Laura agreed to contact Charter House about it where he is believed to access services and is known.

**Downtown Parking & Sidewalk Use Policy (for full gamut of EVs):** Laura referenced her recent letter to editor on downtown parking future and reported on a recent meeting of an e-scooter and e-bike provider called LIME with some members of the Greater Middlebury Climate Economy Transportation Task Force and Middlebury College that wishes to offer a demo event possibly in Jan at Midd College to which committee members would be invited. There was general support for the need to be proactive about directing e-scooters and bikes in how to share sidewalks and roads safely by revising our bikes and other rideable devices ordinance. Laura agreed to work with Fred Dunnington, Tom Hanley and others as needed on a draft to present to the committee in January. Laura asked the committee how they envisioned Printers Ally being navigated by bikes and e-scooters. After some discussion, agreed that bikes should ride down Printers Ally in same lane as motorists or be walked if using sidewalk during business hours. Site line is poor to create lane against NBM if NBM gives permission to use that space as bike lane.

**Career Development & Training Needs:** Dire. State is aging. Committee members felt no amount of career development in state will solve it. Members support going to regional model for fire and first response but see push back from small towns in much the same way that we see it with school consolidation. Solution probably needs to come from state in way of mandate. There are good models out there to mimic when time is right.

**Cell Tower:** The committee expressed frustration with how long it is taking for Verizon to take down the old cell tower which is interfering with reception from the north for MREMS, a very dangerous situation that Teena has reported ongoingly to Kathleen who is doing what she can but whose hands are tied by Verizon. Going through legal measures. Really needs to get resolved.

**Marijuana Legalization:** Committee is monitoring this. May need to authorize where recreational use can be sold. Up tic in plant theft, including hemp which is mistaken for marijuana.

**Homelessness/Transients Follow Up:** Bill Cunningham reported concern with bus users who offend and deter other passengers with their difficult behaviors (extreme body odor, offensive language or displays). He wondered if there could be unity in how we respond to reduce conflicts with public. When and how can we ask “patron” to leave bus, library, town green, public spaces. Tell how to use public space appropriately. Behavior contract for everyone. E.G., if don’t shower, can’t use services. This is what Rutland does. Plus they charge minor bus fee. ACTR is considering issuing a card that tells where you can get shower (Charter House, HOPE, Desbrais Cleaners). Laura agreed to contact appropriate social service agencies and town department officials to discuss it, possibly at January’s meeting or a separate dedicated meeting perhaps at CSAC. Peg Goldman noted the excellent recent training provided on the opioid crisis and Laura mentioned the mental health first aid training also provided recently as possible lessons learned to share.

**Next Meeting.** Monday, Jan 20, 4 pm at MPD.

**Adjourn.** At 5:15 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 and Safety Committee Chair