

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY
Public Health & Safety Committee
Middlebury Police Dept Community Room
Monday, January 15, 2018* Final Meeting Minutes

Attending the meeting: Committee members Selectboard Member Laura Asermily, Police Chief Thomas Hanley, Fire Chief Dave Shaw, Health Officer Tom Scanlon, Gary Baker, Selectboard member Nick Artim, MREMS Director Teena Betourney, Porter Hospital EM Director Mike Leyden, Middlebury College Public Safety Director Lisa Burchard Guests: Public Works' Bill Kernan, Ira Schiffer, MPD Chaplain and former Midd College Jewish Chaplain. Absent: Addison County Sheriff Don Keeler, Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay

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. Dave Shaw seconded the motion, which was approved by the Committee.

Approval of Nov 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Tom Scanlon moved and Tom Hanley seconded without any changes. Passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments. None.

Emergency Response Exercise: Mike Leyden reported that progress is being made toward scheduling an active shooter exercise in consultation with ACSD. They want to do such a drill, as does Porter, since it hasn't been conducted in a few years. Mike shared Maine's Table Top Active Shooter Plan as a template he will use to coordinate the exercise. He aims for March 27 but noted that this depends on when the superintendent gets back to him to confirm the date and place—either MUHS or Mary Hogan. It will be close to this time if not exactly on this date. HCC wants to be involved and observe as does Middlebury College. Gary Baker proposed that we call the exercise something more neutral like "Intruder Exercise" noting that sometimes publicity of an exercise can trigger an actual incident and he wanted to reduce its chances. The committee discussed this. In the end, all agreed it was important to call it what it was and call it "Active Shooter Exercise" and manage publicity of the exercise carefully.

Winter Traffic Management (any speeding/signage/clearance/parking/ACTR bus stop issues): No new speeding concerns were raised, but Tom Hanley noted that at 20 mph speed warning sign was added to South St Extension by the Eddy Horse farm in response to their concern about speeding at their junction where visibility is poor.

On signage, Laura Asermily asked Bill Kernan about status of adding a "no left turn" sign at top of Merchants Row on the post under the yield sign as another reminder to motorists to avoid turning left onto the one way portion of North Pleasant on the rotary—a common mistake. Bill said he looked at it and felt it wasn't needed, but may look at it again. Tom Hanley agreed it wasn't that important, noting that while it remains a problem, there have been no or very few accidents and there is already a lot of signage in the area and people will continue to not read signs and go wrong way. People just don't read signs.

On clearance, the Committee applauded DPW work in keeping roads and walkways clear throughout some of the messiest storms seen in Middlebury. There was discussion of the importance of fire hydrant clearing and a request by a resident for DPW to clear his hydrant. Some didn't realize it was the responsibility of the property owner to clear hydrants of snow and not DPW, who helps when they can but has been very busy with other activity. Dave Shaw thanked DPW for fire hydrant digouts in the recent storm. Ira Schiffer asked if there was public outreach to notify people of help they could provide in making it possible to access their homes and buildings. Laura raised the issue of finding homes and asked if it made sense to look at the effort to add 911 green reflective house number signs as promoted by Dean George a few years ago. Teena said Middlebury Rotary had done enormous research on it and concluded it was too hard and expensive. Laura wondered if it was worth another look or at least reminding people to make sure their homes are clearly numbered so emergency responders can find them more readily, especially in more remote areas of town and on dirt roads. Teena recommended speaking with Beth Dow who knew the history of the effort.

On ACTR bus stops at Post Office/St Stephens, emergency responders (Teena Betourney and David Shaw) emphasized that the situation remains dangerous and it's only a matter of time before there's an accident. They've observed two buses pulling in to the drop off at same time and emphasized that it should not to function as a transfer point this way. Laura said she would relay the concern to ACTR. She said ACTR needs to stop there somewhere and worked out the best solution possible since stopping in the road would impede traffic. Some thought this may be safer than pull offs noting that they have watched buses in Burlington and school buses do this all the time. Bill Kernan noted that the town is monitoring it and that's why a 3 month provision was put in to the understanding with ACTR.

In other updates, Tom Hanley reported that we will see complaints regarding our "winter parking ban" signage in response to an incident over the weekend where cars were towed from the upper Municipal lot behind Ilsley and Town Offices. There was an event at Tinker and Smithy that began at midnight and some of their players parked there not knowing that the winter parking ban related to the lot. They thought it was just streets. Laura asked if any adjustments needed to be made to our signage. Tom Hanley didn't think so, noting that there was signage at all entry points in town and it should be obvious in a serious storm such as the one we had that drivers would have common sense and not park in public places overnight so clearing could occur and store owners bare responsibility for informing customers of this. Tom Hanley explained that often officers will go in and warn merchants of cars that could be towed, but their staff was busy that weekend responding to other incidents that night including the death of a homeless person downtown and a fire. Bill Kernan agreed to add the language "and parking lots" to a sign where he felt it could be helpful. The committee agreed to get word out again about winter parking ban and its application to municipal lots as well as streets in its communications such as the Town website homepage.

PHS website management (any changes/additions for winter safety): No one thought changes were needed, except prominent display of winter parking ban. Laura thanked Tom Scanlon for work he did posting useful health and safety links that you can access from Town home page as well as at PHS page and encouraged Committee members to

visit our page and each other's sites. Teena reported that MREMS seeks help updating their website. It was recommended that they reach out to Middlebury College students such as those looking for internships or community service.

Safety Day (modeled on Mary Hogan School one last year or seasonal "Safety Saturdays" at MFD): Dave Shaw felt it would be too hard to do anything at MFD with so much going on already around trainings and equipment maintenance. Laura recommended that the Committee keep thinking about it and asked if there were any other events happening in the community at which safety awareness help could be integrated, such as Health and Wellness Fairs or the Fire Extinguisher Check Day at Co-op Insurance. Laura noted that schools like MUHS sometimes have these. Lisa and Teena recalled that Eastview had a Wellness Fair in Oct so maybe there. Meanwhile, the Committee thought the Mary Hogan School Safety Day last May was a success and something they would continue to support. Laura noted that it's an opportunity to elevate pursuit of careers in public safety as well as distribute safety equipment such as smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, radios, batteries, etc.

Other Updates (equipment/staffing/trainings/meetings):

Police Chief Tom Hanley reported that they had hired a Parking Attendant to enforce our parking ordinance. She will start in spring and cover spring and summer months.

Health Officer Tom Scanlon reported that Addison County Regional Planning Commission Emergency Planner Tim Boutin was retiring in April.

Fire Chief Dave Shaw had no other updates (the new ladder truck is in Middlebury).

MREMS Director Teena Betourney reported that they had just acquired a new ambulance. It will replace one that's about to go out of service. A "Wedge" plate was added to it in honor of one of Middlebury's longest EMS responders. She's submitted another grant for much needed new radios and hopes to get that in time to make purchases next year.

Midd College Public Safety Director Lisa Burchard reported that they had hired an emergency planner (3 days/week) so that, like Porter, they could have someone dedicated to emergency planning, training and coordination with the Town and others.

Porter Hospital EM Manager Mike Leyden shared that they have been tracking influenza and have had 37 positive cases, including at least one case of the B10 virus in the ER. While the number of those with flu isn't dramatically higher than last year, it is higher and they are watching it closely, especially at Helen Porter. He recommended that we continue to get word out that vaccines are still good to get and washing your hands frequently is very important.

Next Meeting. Monday, Feb 19, 4 pm at MPD.

Adjourn. At 5 pm, Gary Baker moved that the Committee adjourn. Tom Hanley seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Asermily
Public Health and Safety Committee Chair