

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY
Public Health & Safety Committee
Middlebury Police Dept Community Room
Monday, April 15, 2019* Draft Meeting Minutes

Attending the meeting: Committee members Selectboard Members Laura Asermily and Nick Artim, Police Chief Thomas Hanley, Health Officer Tom Scanlon, Gary Baker. Guests: DPW's Bill Kernan, Rail Bridge Jim Gish, ACTR Bill Cunningham, ACRPC Emergency Planner Andrew L'Roe, Philip Bowler UVM Medical Center Public Safety student (observing). Absent: Fire Chief David Shaw, MREMS Dir Teena Betourney, Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton, Porter EM Dir Mike Leyden, Midd College Public Safety Lisa Burchard, Ira Schiffer

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

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

Approval of Jan 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Tom Scanlon moved and Tom Hanley seconded without any changes. Passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments. None.

Committee Structure: Agreed to limit number to 7 members as follows with MPD Chief Tom Hanley as chair to meet as needed monthly on 2nd Monday of month (instead of 3rd Monday) at 4 pm at MPD or 4th Monday of month, if members can't meet on the 2nd Monday. This aligns for when Nick Artim can best attend and is not likely to be traveling. Notetaking will be arranged by Tom Hanley (likely BJ).

MPD Chief Tom Hanley (chair)
MFD Chief Dave Shaw
Health Officer Tom Scanlon
Public Works Bill Kernan
Selectboard Member Liaison Nick Artim
Selectboard Member Liaison Laura Asermily (alternate)
Citizen-at-large Gary Baker (for institutional knowledge)
Citizen-at-large Andrew L'Roe (Midd resident, MFD volunteer, ACRPC liaison)

Regularly invited experts/guests to be cc'd:

Rail Bridge Jim Gish,
ACTR Bill Cunningham,
MREMS Dir Teena Betourney,
Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton,
Porter EM Dir Mike Leyden,
Midd College Public Safety Lisa Burchard,
Ira Schiffer
Others, as determined by agenda items

Emergency Management Planning & Response (updates): MPD Chief Tom Hanley reported that the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) is in a new format this year and now called the Middlebury Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). He has updated it and sent it to Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay. It follows the state plan and is scheduled to go before the Selectboard for its approval at its April 23rd meeting. It is a model for other Addison County towns. Chief Hanley reported that there were three things on which the Selectboard should focus: 1) Purchasing Policy is clear and followed 2) Redeployment of town staff is clear and followed, and most importantly 3) Level of command is clear and followed. The Town Manager is listed first (has primary authority to declare an emergency to FEMA). The MPD Chief is second in command. Since the MPD Chief could be deployed in response, the committee discussed if it could help recruit a pool of citizens trained to back up and assist MPD as Emergency Management Assistants. This pool might include people like Chris English, Brian Carpenter and, especially Dean George who has experience in emergency response and is retired and possibly available. Training is available online.

Downtown Traffic Mitigation: New parking attendant Jody Covey has been hired to monitor parking 5 days a week. She started this month and is doing very well to keep parking turned over and to help direct people on where to park. Street sweeping was scheduled earlier for April but has been delayed due to weather. Line painting for crosswalks, sharrows, fog lines will occur in May/June as weather permits. Discussions are underway with Agrimark, ACTR and others about navigating Court St, South and North Pleasant St and Cross St with the road closure. Preliminary thinking on this will be presented to Selectboard by VTrans at its meeting on May 14 on Rail Bridge Construction progress and plans. A no turn left onto Cross St from S. Pleasant is encouraged to keep traffic flowing. Measures to calm traffic on S. Pleasant would be welcomed. "Road Diets" (narrowing the travel lane) are proven to do the best job of calming traffic.

Other Business (none): MPD worked with Midd College Public Safety to be prepared to respond to potential protest on Tues night April 16 to a controversial speaker. Middlebury College students assure that it will be a silent protest, but social media has made this event known to outsiders whose behavior is unknown. It is hoped that it will not be a repeat of the Charles Murray event.

Next Meeting. Monday, May 20, 4 pm at MPD, if needed (since MPD Chief can't make May 13 and May 27 is Memorial Day)

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Asermily