

## E-Mail Exchange Ashar Nelson & Jen Murray Regarding VOREC Grant

**From:** Ashar Nelson [<mailto:ashar@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 11:18 AM

**To:** Jennifer Murray <[JMurray@TownOfMiddlebury.org](mailto:JMurray@TownOfMiddlebury.org)>; [nanjune49@gmail.com](mailto:nanjune49@gmail.com); Lynn, Angelo <[angelo@addisonindependent.com](mailto:angelo@addisonindependent.com)>; Sheldon, Amy <[landslideamy@comcast.net](mailto:landslideamy@comcast.net)>; Eric Berg <[eberg33@gmail.com](mailto:eberg33@gmail.com)>; ecronana <[ecronana@yahoo.com](mailto:ecronana@yahoo.com)>; John Derick <[jbderick05@gmail.com](mailto:jbderick05@gmail.com)>; Jennifer Murray <[JMurray@TownOfMiddlebury.org](mailto:JMurray@TownOfMiddlebury.org)>; Claire Tebbs <[ctebbs@acrpc.org](mailto:ctebbs@acrpc.org)>; Kathleen Ramsay <[KRamsay@TownOfMiddlebury.org](mailto:KRamsay@TownOfMiddlebury.org)>

**Subject:** RE: VOREC - meeting to vet two strong ideas

Hi Jen

There are a few issues tangled up together here:

- We definitely need a bike ped master plan;
- We definitely need a steering committee to help bring focus to the increased desire for outdoor recreation, especially when it comes to common town assets;
- A specific grant opportunity right now.

There's still energy and commitment to pursue the VOREC grant for the East Midd connection – MALT has part of that trail scoped out with landowner permissions, so those funds could support planning but also “bricks + mortar” (or “Gravel + Fabric in this case...”). I think the sentiment is to take a shot at the grant now – if we get it, great, we know we can use it. If we don't, we will continue planning and look for other funding sources. We will of course continue communicating with you, Kathleen and the Select Board, understanding that it may not fit into the picture right now, but having a group that believes it valuable to try.

Thanks

Ashar

**From:** Jennifer Murray <[JMurray@TownOfMiddlebury.org](mailto:JMurray@TownOfMiddlebury.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2018 2:11 PM

**To:** [nanjune49@gmail.com](mailto:nanjune49@gmail.com); Lynn, Angelo <[angelo@addisonindependent.com](mailto:angelo@addisonindependent.com)>; Ashar Nelson <[ashar@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com](mailto:ashar@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com)>; Sheldon, Amy <[landslideamy@comcast.net](mailto:landslideamy@comcast.net)>; Eric Berg <[eberg33@gmail.com](mailto:eberg33@gmail.com)>; ecronana <[ecronana@yahoo.com](mailto:ecronana@yahoo.com)>; John Derick <[jbderick05@gmail.com](mailto:jbderick05@gmail.com)>; Murray, Jennifer <[JMurray@TownOfMiddlebury.org](mailto:JMurray@TownOfMiddlebury.org)>; Claire Tebbs <[ctebbs@acrpc.org](mailto:ctebbs@acrpc.org)>

**Subject:** FW: VOREC - meeting to vet two strong ideas

Hi there,

Saw from your meeting notes that this group plans to approach the Selectboard on the 27<sup>th</sup> about the need for a bike-ped master plan. I just wanted to let you know that developing a bike-ped master plan project is definitely a priority, and was included in the last iteration of the Town plan. We're still waiting to identify a source of funding- unfortunately the VOREC grant doesn't appear to be it. It may even need to be something that piggybacks on another larger town or regional initiative. Claire- could this be a good candidate for ACRPC transportation funds? What are the size of those awards?

As far as capacity- we should strategize when the time comes on the best way to organize a steering committee that includes representation from all the different stakeholder groups. But

please be patient- it might take some time, as we will want to go into the project with a strategy that makes the most efficient use of volunteer time and energy.

In the meantime, it makes sense to continue assessment/scoping/planning of individual trail projects like the East Middlebury Connector. It would be great to have a project ready to go when implementation funds like the VOREC grant come around in the future. And as Amy alluded to, we can get some key linkages documented as recommendations in the forest recreation plan (soon to be finalized!).

Thanks!

Jen