

**Town/College Lunch**  
**Highlights**  
**Monday, December 17, 2018**  
College Hosting  
12:15 p.m.

Attending: Middlebury Selectboard Members Brian Carpenter, Nick Artim and Heather Seeley; Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay; Middlebury College President Laurie Patton, Susan Parsons Ritter, Special Assistant to the President, Associate Secretary to the Board & Director of Community Relations, and David Provost, Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration.

**Downtown Master Plan.** Brian Carpenter said that the Town is preparing to submit an application to the State's Better Connections Program for development of a downtown master plan, with the total project cost estimated at \$75,000 and a 10% local match required. Laurie Patton asked what the College could do to support the Town's effort, and Brian suggested that a letter of support from the College would be helpful and greatly appreciated, as would letters of support from other community organizations.

Although the Town is cautiously optimistic about securing grant funding for the project, as timing of completing the downtown master plan in the next year is crucial to planning and coordination of post-bridge construction projects to revitalize the downtown, Brian asked if the College would be willing to consider financially supporting the planning project, if the grant application was not successful. Laurie Patton invited the Town to submit a request for funding to the College as a "Plan B" for funding the project if the grant is not successful.

Laurie also noted that the College is considering ways to increase the number of students in the Downtown and hopes that the downtown master planning effort will outline some potential strategies for attracting students.

**Economic Health Committee.** Heather Seeley distributed an e-mail from Fred Kenney, Executive Director of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation and Chair of the Middlebury Economic Health Committee, detailing two upcoming meetings of the Economic Health Committee: January 10 - a roundtable discussion with Middlebury businesses; January 24 - a roundtable discussion with developers and property owners. If it would be helpful, David Provost offered to reach-out to developers to invite them to the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Local Option Tax Surplus/Capital Budget.** Heather Seeley noted that the current draft of the capital budget includes funding for advancing planning for the next phase of the Exchange Street sidewalk project, from Catamount Park to Route 7, either as a match for grant funding or to fund engineering to bolster the competitiveness of future grant

applications. Heather also noted that the Infrastructure Committee has recommended the use of the local option tax surplus to offset the proposed increase in spending for capital improvements.

**Farmer's Market.** As a follow-up to a recent letter from Natalie Peters, Chair of the Design Advisory Committee, Brian Carpenter reached-out to David Donahue to clarify the College's position on the use of the park at 94 Main Street for the farmers market, and, based on that conversation, relayed the position that College is open to hosting the farmer's market. Laurie reiterated the College's interest in considering the possibility in discussion. Brian Carpenter mentioned the possibility of using Storrs Park, as well. Further consideration of the park as a location of the farmers market is pending receipt of the College's receipt of a request from the organizers of the market.

**Transportation.** Nick Artim mentioned a trend toward ride-sharing in lieu of buses in rural areas as a potentially more financially- and environmentally-sustainable way to meet the need for public transit. David Provost shared information about efforts by major employers in the Burlington area to provide convenient and affordable transit options for employees, which could be the basis of a model for Addison County.

**Broadband.** With the arrival of new CIO Vijay Menta, Laurie suggested a review the landscape for broadband to see if there have been any advances in technology and/or deployment strategies that would make expanding access to broadband more affordable. Kathleen mentioned a proposal for providing wireless in the downtown that Neighbors, Together solicited over the summer, which she will forward to the College via David Provost.

**Pulp Mill Bridge/Seymour Street Sidewalk.** Brian Carpenter noted that the Selectboard awarded the construction bids for the Pulp Mill Bridge/Seymour Street Sidewalk and the project is scheduled for completion by July 19.

**Bridge Replacement Project Update, Including Park Designs.** Brian reported that the Selectboard endorsed the landscape designs for Triangle Park and Printer's Alley at its last meeting.

**Next Meeting Date.** The group agreed to exchange dates for the next quarterly meeting in March.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Swington Ramsay  
Town Manager