

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
December 3, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Sydney Waller, Andy Baugnet, Dick deRosa (via Zoom), Marion Karl (via Zoom), Roy Kortick, Johnnie Nemec, Bill Ralston

Also: Neal Newman, Middlefield ZEO, Peg Leon Town Board member

Meeting called to order 7:09 pm by Chair Waller

Minutes from November 5, 2020 meeting read. Motion to approve by J. Nemec, 2nd R. Kortick; all in favor

OLD BUSINESS

J. Nemec provided updated research of broadband internet and its limited availability in Middlefield. He spoke of a Western, NY school district consisting of 500 families and found 130 of those families had no internet and assured us Middlefield is not alone in trying to obtain internet access for residents.

He will look into arranging a meeting with local representatives in order to educate them about our situation. Senator Seward's office (until January 2021) and the office of Peter Oberacker were suggested contacts.

There are several internet providers who offer internet service in the area, but density is used to determine whether companies are interested in providing services.

Nemec will next research to see if state funding exists to assist this need.. Currently Senate bill S5696A requires the Public Service Commission to review broadband and fiber optic services within the state and requires the expansion of broadband and fiber optic services.

NEW BUSINESS

Thanks was given to Richard deRosa for his many years of service on both the Planning Board and ZBA.

Chair Waller brought the Master Plan to attention of the Planning Board as it was last updated in 2011, and should be updated every 5 years.

She reached out to Shane Digan, Planner and Recycling Coordinator at Otsego County Planning and provided members with an overview of his recommendations. Mr. Digan had several suggestions and commented in general about the current plan. He would be willing to help us to find an intern to help with the plan and provided several options for proceeding.

Peg Leon suggested that a committee of two (2) Planning Board and two (2) Town Board members use input from county and/or state planners in order to craft a more detailed plan that provides clear goals and objectives. No action was taken.

Middlefield resident Abby Rodd appeared with a completed application for planning board appointment as she is interested in community service at this level. She will replace Richard deRosa. Motion to recommend applicant by J. Nemec, 2nd R. Kortick. All in favor

Motion to adjourn by, R. Kortick, 2nd B. Ralston. All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm

The next meeting of the Middlefield Planning Board will be held on January 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Andrew Baugnet
Secretary