

**Middlesex Vision to Action Forum  
Planning Meeting #2 Minutes  
June 5, 2018  
7:00 p.m. Middlesex Town Offices**

Present: Sorsha Anderson, Joanne Breidenstein, Delia Clark, Susan Clark, Dorinda Crowell, Jill Drury, Vic Dwire, Beth Holtzman, Kimberly Jessup, Michael Levine, Sandy Levine, Adrienne Magida, Chris McVeigh, Mitch Osiecki, Lauri Scharf, Liz Scharf, Janette Shaffer, Dave Shepard, Ursula Stanley, Susan Warren

**1. Welcome**

Susan Clark presented the agenda for the meeting and introduced Delia Clark who facilitated the meeting and who will also lead the Vision to Action Forum (VAF) for Middlesex. Delia provided a little background on other communities' experiences with VAF. In her professional career she has facilitated more than 70 VAF's including several in other countries. She described a VAF as being a community tune-up. Some towns have followed up on an initial event by holding additional events every three years.

**2. Introductions**

Attendees each gave their name and a favorite thing about Middlesex in the summer (see list at the end of the minutes).

**3. Update from the first planning meeting**

The dates chosen for the VAF are October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The Friday evening portion (October 26<sup>th</sup>) will be combined with the annual Fall Harvest Dinner. The actual dinner will be free but as a fundraiser for the Middlesex Food Shelf and the Rumney School meal program will retain the features that have traditionally raised the most funds: the silent auction and the raffle. Outreach efforts for the dinner and the VAF can be combined which will be a cost savings. The outreach will include an explanation that for this year the Fall Harvest Dinner is part of the larger VAF event.

**4. VAF process**

Delia provided a brief description of the VAF process. A VAF is a celebration of the town and focuses on areas of common ground where there is broad agreement among participants. The process will identify what characteristics and features matter to town residents and how to keep those healthy.

The event starts with a Friday evening dinner and some presentations. Participants are then assigned to small groups where each group will discuss one of the ten parts of a healthy community. Individuals are assigned to groups so that each group has a cross section of town residents. Through facilitated discussion, each group will identify five key components related to the issue assigned to the group. These components are presented the next morning (Saturday).

The VAF continues on Saturday morning with brief introductions from each group. Issues that cut across the groups are identified. Participants again break into small groups to discuss key issues that were identified by each of the ten groups on Friday evening. This time, participants

can choose the small group they wish to join based on the issues they are most interested in. The small groups identify potential solutions and project ideas.

All participants will reconvene for lunch followed by a review of the output from each of the small groups. The entire body determines the top issues to work on following the VAF. The outcomes of the VAF include the following:

1. A report capturing all of the ideas raised during the VAF. This report is good input for the Town Plan.
2. Identification of specific projects participants want to work on.
3. Increased web of communication amongst town residents.

### **5. Location for the VAF**

Participants felt Rumney School was the best location in town, because it has the kitchen facility for the Friday Harvest Dinner, and enough rooms for the ten breakout groups. There was also an interest in including Middlesex Village in some way; possibilities included continuing to have the VAF planning meetings in the Village and art displays in the Village as part of the VAF process. Displays, such as a slideshow, could be present at the VAF event that would highlight various parts of town including the Village.

### **6. Name for the VAF event**

The event needs a unique name. Many suggestions were provided by participants and recorded on a flip chart. Voting ensued resulting in the selection of “What’s Next Middlesex?” (WNM).

### **7. Next steps**

Planning will need to proceed along a number of fronts and there will be subcommittees working on the following tasks: publicity, food, site logistics, youth and senior involvement, childcare, engaging artists and fund raising. In addition, there will be a need for about 20 small group facilitators who will need to attend a training.

### **8. Other potential planning participants**

Participants were asked if there were other key Middlesex residents that should be invited to join the planning for the WNM event. A list of names was generated and various participants agreed to contact those individuals:

- Fred McCullough (Susan Clark)
- Chris Blackburn (Chris McVeigh)
- Barbara Buckley (Kimberly Jessup)
- August Burns and Eliot Burg (Beth Holtzman)
- John Puleio (Dave Shepard)
- Tammy and Emile Picard (Susan)
- Nathan Picard (Joanne Breidenstein)
- Peter Hood (Liz Scharf)

### **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

“What is one thing I like about summer in Middlesex?”

- Picking and eating raspberries
- The eagles at Wrightsville
- Hiking Hunger Mtn
- Stacking wood on Sunday mornings, especially when I'm finished
- Walking dirt roads
- Runney Spring Fair
- Exploring around town
- Our community
- Swimming at Shady Rill
- Watching wildlife
- Riding dirt roads on my bike
- Watching sunsets
- Hiking and hanging out in the garden
- Using my neighbors' pond
- Canoeing
- Long swim across Wrightsville