

**What's Next Middlesex Forum
Planning Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2018
Middlesex Town Offices**

Present: Sorsha Anderson, Honi Bean Barrett, Joanne Breidenstein, Mark Bushnell, Susan Clark, David Lawrence, Vic Dwire, Michael Levine, Sandy Levine, Lauri Scharf, Sarah Seidman, Dave Shepard, Emily Smith, Ursula Stanley, Susan Warren

1) Committee Reports

a) Creative Engagement and Artists/Businesses: The Middlesex Makers and Creators event will be held on Friday, October 12th from 6:30 to 9:30 at Camp Meade. The Hive is making space available from the October 12th event for two weeks leading up to the What's Next Middlesex (WNM) forum. Red Hen will host the event with wine tasting and refreshments. In addition to the various items that will be on display at Red Hen, The Hive, Nutty Steph's and The Mud Studio, there will be a slide show to highlight objects that aren't on display at these locations. Approximately 12 individuals are currently planning on displaying with another 6 likely. Rumney School students will have items displayed and for sale to support the 6th grade trip. Continued recruitment will be ongoing with a particular aim to get more traditional craft people. August Burns has offered to do a portrait. In publicizing this event it should be emphasized that it is a separate event but related to WNM. Jen Campbell has worked with Susan to prepare a large pottery cylinder that Rumney students will be decorating. It will be present at the October 12th event where those attending can also add to its decorations. The Middlesex Historical Society can bring some historic artifacts to display. Mark has taken photos of objects for the slideshow. Middlesex poets and authors could also be a part of the event. Vic suggested contacting Jim Covino who does brass sculptures.

b) Promotion and Publicity: A display table advertising WNM has been set up at the Middlesex Bandstand concerts, the Camp Meade Sunday concert and food series, Rumney ice cream social and during the primary election day. The website is operational and people have been visiting it. Rumney School no longer has a newsletter but does maintain an event calendar that WNM could be added to. Honi can coordinate having a flyer sent home with the students. Lauri will check on the possibility of borrowing the Bandstand sandwich board signs to be used to post an advertisement around town. Upcoming Rumney events where the display table could be set up include a curriculum night on September 13th, an open house on October 11th and at Saturday soccer games. If anyone wants to set up and staff the table at the remaining Camp Meade events they can contact Lauri.

To promote face to face outreach, a paper was circulated where attendees indicated individuals they would personally contact to invite to attend WNM.

A flyer is in process that will promote WNM and the Harvest Dinner. The Select Board has said the Town will pay for the flyer. The flyer will include photos that Mark will take. The following agreed or were suggested to be photographed: Honi, Vic, Eric Scharf, Eva Jessup, Ursula and Girl Scouts, Select Board and Planning Commission members.

Another idea proposed was 10 top reasons to attend WNM. These will be posted on Front Porch Forum by different individuals a few days apart. The postings will be done in the following order: Susan, Emily, Joanne, Honi, Lauri, Ursula, Sandy, Susan W and Dave S, David and Susan to wrap it up.

c) Youth and Senior Involvement: Sorsha has spoken to Chris Blackburn at U32 and is planning on individual follow-up with youths. The Guidance Office at U32 was suggested as a potential means to connect with U32 students. Community Connections is engaging Rumney students in doing interviews with elders as part of a history unit for 3rd and 4th grade.

d) Food: Requests will be made to the usual donors for the Harvest Dinner. The Girl Scouts will be making cookies and Red Hen will donate pastries for Saturday snacks. Lunch will be a spread where you make your own sandwich. Assistance with cleaning up after the dinner by volunteers who aren't participating in the WNM discussion to follow dinner would allow participants to transition right into their discussions. Kohl's department store has an employee service program that could be a source of such volunteers. Residents of another town were mentioned as another possibility with Middlesex potentially providing a similar service to that town in the future.

e) Site Logistics: Joanne reported logistics planning for WNM is well underway. There will be a need to coordinate with the Harvest Dinner.

f) Small Group Facilitators/Recorders: There is currently a list of about 30 potential candidates for these positions. The numbers needed are 20 for Friday night and probably 12 on Saturday. A two hour training session will be held, likely early in the week of the WNM event.

g) Fund Raising: An application for a Vermont Community Foundation grant seeking \$2500 to support WNM has been submitted. An application for \$1500 has been submitted to Washington Electric Coop. Hunger Mountain Food Coop might donate food.

2. Additional WNM Event Details

There will be an approximately 30 minute time slot during the Friday evening portion of WNM for a presentation. Potential keynote speakers were discussed including:

- Senator Patrick Leahy
- Paul Costello – Vermont Council on Rural Development
- Susan Morse – Keeping Track
- Lewis Porter – Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
- Chip Darmstadt – North Branch Nature Center
- Steve Juiffre – Middlesex property owner, sugarer and avid hunter

Next Meetings: September 20th and October 10th

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard