



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Board of Selectmen

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall Conference Room

Start – 6:30 p.m.

End – 7:55 p.m.

Present:

Edward B. St. John, First Selectman
J. Paul Vance, Selectman
Jennifer Mahr, Selectman
Dana D'Angelo, Town Attorney
Curtis Bosco, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Patrick Deely, Chief of Police
Vincent Cipriano, Board of Finance, Chairman
Rita Smith, Library Board of Trustees –
Chairman, PD – Commissioner, BOF member
Liana St. Germain, Recording Clerk
Marj Needham, Middlebury Bee Intelligence
Sarah Shelton, Voices

Also Present

Robert Nerney
Dana Shepard
Kevin Conroy
Lisa Conroy
Thomas Gilbertie
John Moriarty
Carol Moriarty
Ralph Barra
Maryann Barra

RECEIVED FOR FILING

Feb 22 2024 at 4:36 pm

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
MIDDLEBURY, CT

Brigitte M. Beuth
TOWN CLERK

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by the First Selectman at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the February 5th, 2024, Meeting Minutes

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to approve the minutes from February 5th, 2024, **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Unanimous approval.

Tax Rebates

Stephen Stokoe - \$376.32
Vault Trust - \$119.56

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** that these tax rebates take their usual course, **SECONDED** by Selectman Mahr. Unanimous approval.

Resignations

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to accept the resignation of Gerald Lukowski (U) as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Unanimous approval.

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to accept the resignation of Selectman Jennifer Mahr (U) as a member of the Greenway Committee **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Unanimous approval.

Appointments

Selectman Mahr noted that there was nothing listed on the Agenda for Appointments. So how would we know who or what we were appointing? First Selectman St. John stated that he can Amend an Agenda since this is a regularly held meeting of the Board of Selectmen. So, if we need to Amend the Agenda and it passes, we move forward to those as they come up.

Selectman Vance noted that it is part of today's packet as well. Selectman Mahr stated that the packet was on the table when we walked in. So, no one in this room, and or no one in town, knew that appointments would be made. Selectman Mahr noted that she would argue that no one here could comment on these appointments because we didn't know what they were.

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to Amend the Agenda to appoint a member to the Ethics Commission, **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Selectman Mahr raised her earlier objection, which is that on previous Agenda's, appointments have been listed exactly who is being appointed and for what. So doing it this way is not transparent and does not allow the people of this town to have an opinion on whether these people should be appointed or not. Selectman Vance noted that all vacancies are posted on the town website, and some have been up there for some time. Selectman Vance stated that at a December Selectmen's meeting, it was discussed that it was important that we fill these positions as quickly and efficiently as possible. Selectman Mahr noted that it is also important to say who is nominated for these positions. Selectman Vance stated it would be discussed tonight.

Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

Selectman Vance stated he has listened to suggestions from citizens. He has taken into consideration what they had to say. We, as Selectmen, agreed at a meeting on 12/18/23, "The Board of Selectmen is obligated to manage the Boards and ensure they are filled." Selectman Vance stated that in that note, he received suggested names from the Middlebury Democratic Town Committee for Boards and Commissions, and they submitted the following. Selectman Vance stated he took an enormous amount of time reviewing each nomination. The Democratic Town Committee suggested at least two people. Selectman Vance studied resumes and ensured they were registered voters, that their taxes were current, and that each was a registered Democrat. Other things considered were prior service, attendance at meetings, experience in the field, and education.

Selectman Vance **MOTIONED** to nominate the following person to serve on the Ethics Commission. Term to expire 02/04/2029. This individual is a human resource director with over 25 years of HR experience. Serves on the Greenway Committee since 2008 and is currently the chairperson. Is responsible for HR practices, policies, and procedures, ensuring compliance with applicable state and federal law. This individual has drive and dedication. Selectman Vance nominates Sharon Bosco(D) to serve on the Ethics Commission, **SECONDED** by First Selectman St. John. Selectman Mahr noted several objections. One is that Mrs. Bosco is married to a town employee, and should an ethics complaint be lobbied against her husband, how could she be in the position to decide whether that complaint was relevant for her husband or not? Selectman Mahr noted she believes that this is not appropriate. Selectman Vance stated that she would be able to recuse herself. Selectman Mahr said that the concept is not appropriate. Selectman Vance noted that this position has been vacant for over two years. Selectman Mahr stated that as a Democratic Selectman, you had opportunities before this to fill that position. So, that position has not been filled for the last two years, and it wasn't on anyone's urgency to get that done. Selectman Mahr stated her second objection, that an email was sent today via email from the newly elected members of the Democratic Town Committee and

they wanted an opportunity to weigh in on all these vacancies that have been left vacant all this time. Why the rush now? Why didn't we see all these people on the agenda? Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.
*Term 02/20/2024 – 02/20/2029

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to Amend the Agenda to accept the resignation of John M. Moriarty (D) as an alternate on the Board of Finance **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Selectman Mahr questioned when the resignation was submitted and said they should have been able to see his letter to understand it. Selectman Mahr stated that she must protest what is being done now. If we are going to do it, we need to put everyone's names out for the public to see, and this needs to be done the right way.

Selectman Vance stated that the following appointment is for the unexpired term of the late Joseph Drauss for the Board of Finance. This individual has been an alternate on the Board of Finance since 2021. He has a degree in accounting, has 35 years with the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services, and for the last 20 years, he has been an audit supervisor. Selectman Vance **MOTIONED** to appoint John M. Moriarty(D) from an alternate member to a full member on the Board of Finance Term to expire 11/04/2025, **SECONDED** by First Selectman St. John. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.
*Term 02/20/2024 – 11/04/2025

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to Amend the Agenda to appoint an alternate member to the Board of Finance for the unexpired term of John Moriarty, Term expiring on 03/06/2025, **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Selectman Mahr stated that she objected. Mr. Moriarty just resigned; how could his vacancy have been noticed by all Democrats who might want to fill that position? Selectman Mahr noted that this is not right. What we are doing here is wrong. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

Selectman Vance noted that the following vacancy is an alternate on the Board of Finance. It is essential to ensure that a quorum is present at every meeting. This individual has a degree in mathematics and a master's in education, has served the city of Waterbury as a City Clerk, and has also clerked several boards and commissions in that city. Selectman Vance **MOTIONED** to appoint George F. Flaherty Jr.(D) as an alternate on the Board of Finance, **SECONDED** by First Selectman St. John. Selectman Mahr noted that her comment is she repeats all her previous objections. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.
*Term 02/20/2024 – 03/06/2025

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to Amend the Agenda to accept the resignation of Linda Herrmann from the Zoning Board of Appeals, **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Selectman Mahr noted that her comment is she repeats all her previous objections. Selectman Mahr stated that the other Selectmen are wrecking democracy. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to Amend the Agenda to appoint the unexpired term of the late Joseph Drauss Term to expire on 05/18/2025, **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Selectman Mahr objects. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**. Selectman Vance stated that the nomination being made, this individual has served Middlebury on many Boards and Commissions. Selectman Vance **MOTIONED** to nominate Linda D. Herrmann (D) to

the unexpired term of the late Joseph Drauss on the Planning and Zoning Commission, **SECONDED** by First Selectman St. John. Selectman Mahr objects. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

*Term 02/20/2024 – 05/18/2025

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to Amend the Agenda to accept the resignation of Bryan A. Ferrucci as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals Term to expire on 11/06/2028, **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

Selectman Vance stated that the position on the Zoning Board of Appeals is important because this Democratic seat ensures that a quorum is always in place. Selectman Vance **MOTIONED** to appoint Bryan A. Ferrucci (D) to fill the unexpired vacancy of Linda Herrmann on the Zoning Board of Appeals Term to expire on 11/05/2026, **SECONDED** by First Selectman St. John. Selectman Mahr objects. Selectman Mahr noted that we are creating vacancies and filling them in the same minute without noticing these vacancies. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

*Term 02/20/2024 – 11/05/2026

Selectman Vance stated that as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals, it is to ensure that a quorum is always present. This individual is currently working on completing his degree in business administration and a minor in political science. This individual performs legislative research at the Connecticut General Assembly and assists in bill writing. Selectman Vance **MOTIONED** to nominate Thomas Gilbertie(D) to fill the unexpired Zoning Board of Appeals term as an alternate, **SECONDED** by First Selectman St. John. Selectman Mahr objects. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

*Term 02/20/2024 – 11/06/2028

First Selectman St. John **MOTIONED** to Amend the Agenda to fill the unexpired resignation of alternate member Gerald Lukowski (U) on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Term to expire 07/05/2025, **SECONDED** by Selectman Vance. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

Selectman Vance stated with the resignation of Gerald Lukowski, this individual is a current member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Selectman Vance **MOTIONED** to nominate Joseph Mancini (IT) as an alternate on the Planning and Zoning Commission, **SECONDED** by First Selectman St. John. Selectman Mahr objects. Selectman Mahr noted that we have just received this resignation and did no work to publish the position. Selectman Mahr voted **NO**.

*Term 02/20/2024 – 07/05/2025

Discussion and Consideration

Solar Array Presentation Postponed to March 18th 2024

First Selectman St. John stated the Solar Array Presentation has been postponed to March 18, 2024, at 6:30 pm. First Selectman St. John noted that Selectman Mahr had requested any information that we may have before this meeting, and First Selectman St. John requested that Mr. Bosco assists with this as he has been the one handling this. First Selectman St. John noted that this is the third go around for Solar for the town, and hopefully, this time around, something will happen.

Attorney Dana D'Angelo – Nichols Road, as it relates to the Dog Park

First Selectman St. John noted that at the previous meeting, the Middlebury Land Trust, which owns the former water company property, was initially owned by the town and sold to the Middlebury Land Trust. Attorney D'Angelo stated at the meeting that Dr. Peterson would reach out regarding Nichols Road and their Engineer, Emily Jones. Attorney D'Angelo noted that she did receive an email the following day. Nichols Road would be the access point, but it is currently closed off. Their engineer is opening up the lines of communication at this point and asking if the town would be interested in selling the discontinued part. Attorney D'Angelo stated that part of the road from where the house is back and discontinued. So, anyone who is an abutting landowner has a presumed right of way over that, but they are plain owners on both sides. Attorney D'Angelo asks what the town would like to do with the pieces of land it still owns. First Selectman St. John noted that an issue the town has with this is the town's utilities run under that property. So, not only do we have a utility easement, but if we were to give up that property, we would need to ensure adequate room to maintain the utilities. First Selectman St. John requests time to think about this consideration. First Selectman St. John goes on to further note that this was originally a dirt road that serviced one home, and the balance of it runs into Naugatuck. It's the quarter for our utilities to connect, like the water company, Connecticut Water Company, which connects to our system on Shaddock Road. First Selectman St. John requested that this be put out there for review. Attorney D'Angelo stated yes that their engineer, at this point, was opening the lines of communication. They are interested and wish to use it as a point of access to the dog park. They would like to be able to tell the Planning and Zoning Commission what the town's intentions are. They are not filing in the next few weeks but intend to file within six weeks.

Early Voting

First Selectman St. John stated that, as everyone is well aware, our last legislator voted in early voting. Our Town Clerk, Brigitte Bessette, has been putting together our town plan. Selectman St. John also stated if anyone is interested or has any questions, please reach out to either the Selectman's office or the town clerk's office.

Amended Middlebury Emergency Contingency Plan for Elections

First Selectman St. John noted that the town clerk amended the contingency plan to include early voting.

Selectman Mahr MOTIONED to approve the Amended Middlebury Emergency Contingency Plan for Elections as amended by the Town Clerk SECONDED by Selectman Vance. Unanimous approval.
(See attached)

Updates on Budgets and Projects

First Selectman St. John stated that he presented the town budget to the Board of Finance at the last meeting. First Selectman St. John noted that the original Department head budget was an increase of about 7% plus. Still, the budget he turned in came to about 3.5%, subject to the Board of Finance's scrutiny and any other sharp pencils that may come around.

Selectman Vance wanted to make a note about the short-term rentals. Selectman Vance handed out an email from the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG). NVCOG will host a Coffee Hour or a virtual meeting to discuss the short-term rental ordinance. (See attached)

Selectman Vance also noted that for a marijuana retail sale location in Waterbury that is being proposed, they would need to utilize our road in Middlebury to gain access to that facility. So, if someone wishes to purchase marijuana, they will need to enter Middlebury via Turnpike Drive to gain access to that facility. Selectman Vance noted that a letter was sent to the Zoning Commission Chairman in the City of Waterbury. Selectman Vance advised that the City of Waterbury will be holding a public hearing on February 28th. First Selectman St. John noted that Robert Nerney, who is present, is Waterbury's City Planner and asked if he would be able to weigh in on this matter. First Selectman St. John did note that if needed, you can recuse yourself as you are Waterbury's City Planner. Mr. Nerney stated that there is an application with the city Zoning Commission. Currently, up to 3 facilities are allowed by the zoning regulations in Waterbury. Two licenses have already been spoken for; currently, there is a third and fourth application before the Zoning Commission. So, someone will be drawing the short straw. Mr. Nerney noted that he is not allowed to speak about the merits of the applications. Selectman Vance asked Mr. Nerney how close this facility would be to the Middlebury town line. Mr. Nerney noted about 1600 feet to Straits Turnpike.

Selectman Mahr read a letter received by Bryce Erwin requesting Ice Cream trucks during the summer months. (See attached)

Selectman Mahr stated that this concern was very sweet and said she would see what she could do.

Selectman Mahr stated several letters went out to the Board of Selectmen this week about using illegal ATVs and Dirt bikes on the Larkin State Bridle Trail. The reports collectively detailed 138 separate violations between May 2023 – February 2024. The access point seems to be at the end of Bioski Road. Groups of 15-20 people were observed riding dirt bikes and ATVs. The peak hours seem to be between 2:00 pm and 5:30 pm on Saturdays and Sundays, with a smaller peak around noon and during the week, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We have an ordinance in town that prohibits these types of vehicles on town roads. Selectman Mahr would like to ask the town attorney to read from the Ordinance, Section 2, " It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized recreational vehicle or for any owner of a motorized recreational vehicle to knowingly permit the operation of such vehicle on any street or sidewalk in the Town of Middlebury or on any public property, including but not limited to school property, playgrounds, and parks within the Town of Middlebury." Selectman Mahr questions if the Bridle Trail is a town park within the town of Middlebury, and she was advised by Attorney D'Angelo and First Selectman St. John that the town does not own that. The State of Connecticut owns this, and it falls under DEEP. Selectman Mahr noted that she contacted our state delegation and had them assure her they would look into it. DEEP goes before the Senate Appropriations Committee this week, and fortunately, we have a high-ranking member of our delegation on that committee who will be able to ask DEEP. Selectman Vance noted that he spoke with our Chief of Police, who stated he would talk with DEEP officials directly to ensure this would be looked into. Police Chief Deely noted that about two weeks ago, the police department reminded the gas stations in town of the town ordinance, where they can not allow illegal vehicles to fill up there. There is a valid complaint and issue. Chief Deely stated we would be working with the neighbors and DEEP. We will work in conjunction with them, partner with them, do whatever needs to be done, and let them take the lead and assist them in any way we can.

Selectman Mahr stated this came to her attention today. This affects her personally, and she has a very personal stake in it. Her personal stake in it is what brought it to her attention, and she believes it has implications for the town as a whole. Selectman Mahr requested a few minutes to allow for a personal background story to get to her concerns. A year ago, in February, Selectman Mahr took out building permits to do a project in her yard. If you take out a permit in Middlebury, you have six months to start on that permit and have an inspection, or your permit expires. An extraordinary side of events over the summer delayed her ability to continue on this project, so she needed to extend the permit in August because she couldn't start the work on the permit. At that time, the building inspector told her in writing that her options were to extend the permit for six months or cancel the permit and receive 80 % of the fee back. Selectman Mahr decides to extend the permit because she believes her luck can't be as bad as it has been. Unfortunately, her issue was not resolved, and her bad luck continued; her permit expires on March 1st, and the work has not started. This morning, when the building inspector replied to Selectman Mahr's contractor about canceling the permit because the work will not be getting done any time soon. The reply was that I could extend it one more time for six months or cancel and get only 50% of the permit fee back. Selectman Mahr said that with this change, she went looking and found a new post on the Building Department page on the town website, and it states that the building permit fee changed as of January 1st, 2024. Selectman Mahr noted that this list is entirely different from the previous one, which the Board of Selectman approved in October 2021. So, her question is, when did the fee schedule change, and who authorized the change? How and why did this not come before the Board of Selectman? Selectman Mahr noted that she looked into the fees of the surrounding towns, and Middlebury's fees are extraordinarily high. First Selectman St. John requested that Attorney D'Angelo speak with our Building official and attempt to get a handle on this. First Selectman St. John noted that he was unable to answer these questions.

Public Comments

Ralph Barra questioned that two names are usually submitted for consideration and asked if there was a change in the policy. First Selectman St. John noted that two names were submitted for consideration with each appointment for today.

Maryann Barra asked Selectman Vance and advised that she is a moderator on the Middlebury Neighborhood Group Page on Facebook. On February 6th, a poll was put up, and the question was, "Should the Board of Selectmen wait until the new committees have a chance to make recommendations for vacancies." And there were well over 112 votes, and my question to you, Selectman Vance, is that you were one of them. Selectman Vance stated that he does not remember putting his name there and will be the first to admit that he is computer illiterate. Selectman Vance noted that he took these appointments very seriously. He has only been in town for five years. Selectman Vance read, reviewed, and checked resumes and backgrounds; he learned not to take people at face value in his profession.

Dana Shepard noted that an email was sent 3 hours before the meeting from Sally Romano, MD, Ph.D., to all the Selectmen. Ms. Shepard read the email aloud. (See attached)

Ms. Shepard wholeheartedly agrees with Dr. Romano's letter. Ms. Shepard stated that this is supposed to be a four-month process of vetting and interviewing, which is supposed to take place, and this process took place in a week. It is an insult to democracy. Ms. Shepard stated that Selectman Vance, as the sitting Democratic of the Board of Selectmen, I would hope that you personally would have

wanted the candidates from the Democratic party to have been properly vetted the way the state outlines them to be. Selectman Vance noted that he believed they all were. Ms. Shepard pointed out that people were not given a chance to apply. How can someone resign from a position that morning, and at that evening meeting, the position is already being filled? Ms. Shepard asked how you could honestly sit there and state that the process was done appropriately. Selectman Vance stated that he spoke and listened to many people. He spoke directly on the telephone to residents in this town regarding appointments. Some individuals said to appoint, and others said not to appoint. There are two sides to every story. Selectman Vance stated he read Dr. Romano's email and considered it. The last individual that we appointed we appointed is unaffiliated. That being said, I vetted all those people. I took it from the nominating committee. I am not a town committee member. I can only take what is given to me by the Democratic Town Committee. I look forward to working with the future Democratic Town Committee. Selectman Mahr thanked Ms. Shepard for reading the email and agreed with it. Selectman Mahr noted that it is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen to make these appointments, not a Selectman from that particular party that the nominations are coming from. Again, this line on our Agenda was vacant, and in other meetings, when there was going to be an appointment, the name was there, and the recommendation was included in the packet. Selectman Mahr noted that speaking of transparency, nothing was indicated under Appointments, which means nothing is happening at this meeting. Selectman Mahr stated that she has asked that when a vote needs to be made at any meeting, the information be provided before the meeting and not be on the table for when she walks in.

Ralph Barra asked where the unaffiliated would submit their applications. Mr. Barra was advised that nothing is changing and that applications are to continue to be accepted to the same. Selectman Mahr noted that unaffiliated people applied for those positions and were left entirely out. Marj Needham advised that they spoke of all names that did apply at the Town meeting, including the unaffiliated. Selectman Mahr stated that there has been no discussion as a board.

Marj Needham asked Mr. Barra about state rules, public notices, and publishing openings when Mr. Barra served on the Democratic Town Committee. Ms. Needham asked if he recalls that the Town Committee posted any notices in the paper. Mr. Barra said he doesn't recall; you must ask the chairman. Mr. Bosco noted that there is no requirement to make any legal notice.

Robert Nerney stated that this town is changing. There are a lot of people engaged. Mr. Nerney has walked hundreds of miles gathering signatures and petitions. People want transparency. They want good government. There is an opportunity to cast a wide net to get the best people possible. Mr. Nerney noted that not all the appointments tonight were unfit, but they were quite good. The appearance of changing the agenda – Mr. Nerney wouldn't recommend doing that. This town is divided, and if you sincerely want to repair that damage, I would move cautiously. I would listen to the people. Selectman Vance stated that he agrees and listens to the people. He has been trying to make this point during this whole meeting. Selectman Vance has been listening and understands that not everyone will agree with him. Mr. Nerney noted what played out tonight was hurried.

Mr. Nerney said he read an article a few weeks back about an arrest in a domestic dispute. Mr. Nerney is curious and understands Freedom of the press. What is the policy for disseminating information to the press or the public? In my opinion, it seemed like an un-news-worthy event. I found it curious that a while later, there was a shooting on my street, discharge of the weapon twice, struck

a unit in Ridgewood, thankfully no one was home, and crickets, nothing was heard about that. Chief Deely stated that it is a public record. Marj Needham noted that the paper you are referring to is my paper, and Ms. Needham would like to explain. It is freedom of information. The police department sends her reports. Ms. Needham is a small newspaper and does most of the work herself. She has a few columnists, and unfortunately, some things get missed. Mr. Nerney states that he is not critiquing the newspaper at all; the question was intended for the Chief, and Ms. Needham also assisted in answering the question. Chief Deely reiterated that it is all Freedom of information. Chief Deely also mentioned that Selectman Mahr requested police be made available. Selectman Mahr noted that the question being asked is what the Police Department policy is on releasing information. Does the Police Department send a press release every time an arrest occurs? Chief Deely noted that, yes, unless it is a juvenile or an ongoing investigation, and there are certain ones that you cannot give out, for example, a sexual assault victim.

Thomas Gilbertie stated that he was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate. He wanted to be present this evening to show that he was present and available. Mr. Gilbertie noted that this town is divided. As a local or public official, he believes it doesn't matter what letter you may have, whether it be an R, D, or U. Everyone's opinion matters, and everyone's opinion should be heard. Mr. Gilbertie would like to thank the Board of Selectmen.

Kevin Conroy would like to ask if a traffic study was done regarding the dog park. Attorney D'Angelo noted when she spoke with the engineer handling this. She stated that she had just gotten authorization for a traffic study. Mr. Conroy asked when this would be available. Attorney D'Angelo noted that this all goes before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

First Selectman Edward B. St. John MOTIONED to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:55 p.m.; SECONDED by Selectman Vance. Unanimous approval.

The next meeting is slated for Monday, March 4, at 4:00 p.m.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liana St. Germain

Recording Clerk

Gerald Lukowski
863 South Street
Middlebury, CT 06762

RECEIVED FOR FILING
Feb. 13 2024 at 8:10 am
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
MIDDLEBURY, CT

Brigitte M. Smith
TOWN CLERK

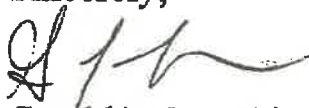
February 12, 2024

To the Middlebury Town Clerk,

Please let this letter serve as notice effective today that I resign my position on the Middlebury Planning and Zoning Panel of Alternates.

It has been an honor to serve but increased commitments with the United States - Department of Defense (DOD) make it impossible for me to continue in both capacities with Planning and Zoning and the DOD.

Sincerely,


Gerald Lukowski

Jennifer Mahr
68 Abbott Farm Rd.
Middlebury, CT 06762

February 6, 2024

Ed St. John
First Selectman
Town of Middlebury
1212 Whittmore Rd.
Middlebury, CT 06762

Mr. St. John:

Effective immediately, I resign my position on the Greenway Committee. I was happy to serve in that volunteer capacity, but find that I need to prioritize my time and focus on my responsibilities as a Selectman.

I also believe that there are other, very capable volunteers in Middlebury who would love the opportunity to serve, and I happily step aside for someone else to be able to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Middlebury.

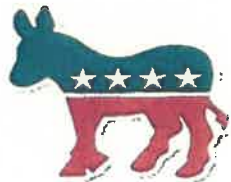
Sincerely,


Jennifer Mahr

Middlebury Democratic Town Committee

P.O. Box 355

Middlebury, CT 06762



February 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen,

The Middlebury Democratic Town Committee, at a recent meeting, compiled a list of qualified candidates to fill the vacant minority position on the Ethics Commission, term to expire 2/4/2029.

We are honored and pleased to present the following names for consideration:

**Sharon Swan Bosco, 167 Upper Whittemore Road
Sarah Carpentieri, 297 Burr Hall Road**

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Curtis Bosco in blue ink.

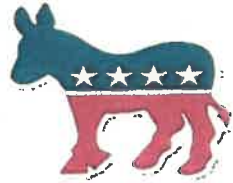
Curtis Bosco

Chairman

Middlebury Democratic Town Committee

P.O. Box 355

Middlebury, CT 06762



February 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen,

The Middlebury Democratic Town Committee, at a recent meeting, compiled a list of qualified candidates to fill the unexpired term of the late Board of Finance member, Joseph Drauss, term to expire 11/4/2025.

We are honored and pleased to present the following names for consideration:

**John M. Moriarty, Jr., 35 Southview Avenue
Michael J. McCormack, 273 South Street**

John M. Moriarty, Jr. is currently a Board of Finance Alternate member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. B.' or 'Curtis Bosco'.

Curtis Bosco

Chairman

Middlebury Democratic Town Committee

P.O. Box 355

Middlebury, CT 06762



February 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen,

The Middlebury Democratic Town Committee, at a recent meeting, compiled a list of qualified candidates to fill the unexpired term of Board of Finance Alternate member, John M. Moriarty, Jr., term to expire 3/6/2025.

We are honored and pleased to present the following names for consideration:

**George F. Flaherty, Jr., 790 Whittemore Road
Michael J. McCormack, 273 South Street**

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Curtis Bosco in blue ink.

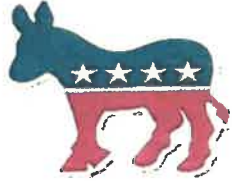
Curtis Bosco

Chairman

Middlebury Democratic Town Committee

P.O. Box 355

Middlebury, CT 06762



February 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen,

The Middlebury Democratic Town Committee, at a recent meeting, compiled a list of qualified candidates to fill the unexpired term of the late Planning and Zoning Commission member, Joseph Drauss, term to expire 5/18/2025.

We are honored and pleased to present the following names for consideration:

**Linda D. Herrmann, 18 Caveson Court
Thomas Gilbertie, 15 Upland Road**

Linda D. Herrmann is currently the Chairman of the ZBA and has completed Land Use Training in accordance with CGS 8-4c.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. B." or "Curtis B.".

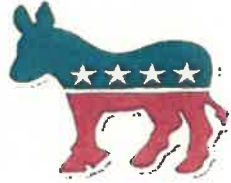
Curtis Bosco

Chairman

Middlebury Democratic Town Committee

P.O. Box 355

Middlebury, CT 06762



February 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen,

The Middlebury Democratic Town Committee, at a recent meeting, compiled a list of qualified candidates to fill the unexpired term of Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Bryan A. Ferrucci, term to expire 11/6/2028.

We are honored and pleased to present the following names for consideration:

**Thomas Gilbertie, 15 Upland Road
Mark Petrucci, 71 Fairhaven Drive**

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Curtis Bosco in blue ink.

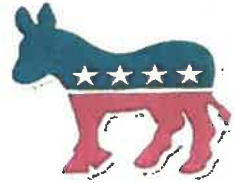
Curtis Bosco

Chairman

Middlebury Democratic Town Committee

P.O. Box 355

Middlebury, CT 06762



February 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen,

The Middlebury Democratic Town Committee, at a recent meeting, compiled a list of qualified candidates to fill the unexpired term of Linda D. Herrmann on the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire 11/5/2026.

We are honored and pleased to present the following names for consideration:

**Bryan A. Ferrucci, 436 Regan Road
Thomas Gilbertie, 15 Upland Road**

Bryan A. Ferrucci is currently a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate and has completed Land Use Training in accordance with CGS 8-4c.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "C. B.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

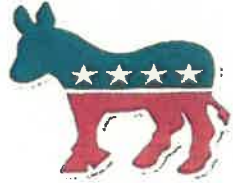
Curtis Bosco

Chairman

Middlebury Democratic Town Committee

P.O. Box 355

Middlebury, CT 06762



February 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen,

The Middlebury Democratic Town Committee, at a recent meeting, compiled a list of qualified candidates to fill the unexpired term of Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate member, Gerald Lukowski, term to expire July 5, 2025.

We are honored and pleased to present the following names for consideration:

**Joseph Mancini, 34 Woodland Road
Emily E. Bowler, 190 North Farm Road**

Joseph Mancini is a current member of the ZBA and has completed Land Use Training in accordance with CGS 8-4c.

Sincerely,


Curtis Bosco

Chairman

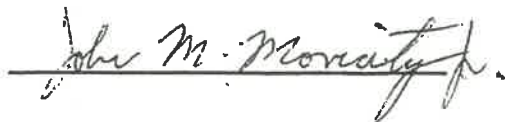
John M. Moriarty, Jr.
35 Southview Avenue
Middlebury, CT 06762

February 13, 2024

To the Middlebury, CT Town Clerk,

I am being considered, by the Middlebury Democratic Town Committee and the Board of Selectmen, for appointment to the Board of Finance to fill the unexpired term of the late Joseph Drauss. If appointed, I would need to resign my current position as a Board of Finance Alternate creating a vacancy to be filled by a Democrat.

I hereby resign my position as a Board of Finance Alternate to become effective immediately upon and contingent upon my appointment to the above-mentioned position.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Moriarty, Jr." is written over a horizontal line.

John M. Moriarty, Jr.

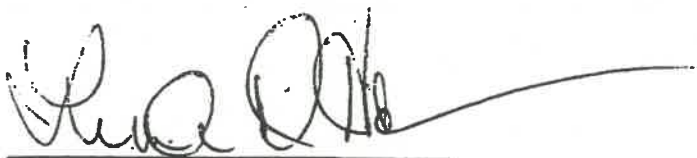
**Linda D. Herrmann
18 Caveson Court
Middlebury, CT 06762**

February 13, 2024

To the Middlebury, CT Town Clerk,

I am being considered, by the Middlebury Democratic Town Committee and the Board of Selectmen, for appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired term of the late Joseph Drauss . If appointed, I would need to resign my current position as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to be filled by a Democrat.

I hereby resign my position as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to become effective immediately upon and contingent upon my appointment to the above-mentioned position.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda D. Herrmann', written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and extends to the right with a long, thin stroke.

Linda D. Herrmann

Bryan A. Ferrucci
436 Regan Road
Middlebury, CT 06762

February 13, 2024

To the Middlebury, CT Town Clerk,

I am being considered, by the Middlebury Democratic Town Committee and the Board of Selectmen, for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Linda D. Herrmann. If appointed, I would need to resign my current position as a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate to be filled by a Democrat.

I hereby resign my position as a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate to become effective immediately upon and contingent upon my appointment to the above-mentioned position.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan A. Ferrucci", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Bryan A. Ferrucci

Middlebury Emergency Contingency Plan for Elections

(Sections 9-174a-1 to 9-174a-34 and PA 23-204 Early Voting Act)

Sec. 9-174a-2. Preparation of voting tabulator machines

The registrars of voters shall ensure that the voting tabulator machines are prepared for each election, primary, or referenda day pursuant to sections 9-242a-1 to 9-242a-28, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

9-174a-4. Communication with registrars of voters

Moderators and other poll workers shall contact the registrars of voters in the event any such moderator or poll worker is unable to work on the day of an election, primary or referenda. Moderators shall contact the registrars of voters in the event that additional poll workers are needed at a location.

Sec. 9-174a-6. Fire safety compliance

The Fire Chief shall ensure that each polling location is in compliance with local fire safety ordinances, and all fire safety equipment, including, but not limited to, fire extinguishers, sprinklers and fire alarms, within each polling location has been inspected and is in working order as per local fire safety ordinances.

Sec. 9-174a-7. Contact Information

The registrars of voters shall create a list of contact information for each moderator. Such list shall be part of the emergency plan and shall include the following contacts:

Registrars of Voters	203-577-2061
Police Department	203-577-4028
Fire Chief	203-577-4036
Public Works Director / Building Maintenance (Responsible for generators, lighting, outages and grounds)	203-577-4170
First Selectman	203-758-2439
Safety & Health Committee	203-577-4163
Town Clerk	203-577-2557
Secretary of the State Election Division	860-509-6100

Sec. 9-174a-10. Spare ballots

The registrars of voters shall withhold and keep in the registrars of voters' office a number of spare paper ballots for each unique voting district. The registrars of voters shall use these reserved ballots to make additional copies or shall provide these reserved ballots to any polling location that requires additional paper ballots.. The registrars of voters or such registrar's designee shall ensure that a few test copies are made to check that the ballots are printing properly.

Sec. 9-174a-12. Review of polling locations and PA 23-204 Early Voting Act

Not later than one day prior to each election, primary, or referenda held in the municipality, the registrars of voters shall visit each election day and early voting location to ensure the locations can be accessed, review the status of the locations to ensure that all materials are in proper working order, and ensure that the appropriate person is available to open the polling locations.

Sec. 9-174a-14. Moderator duties prior to opening

Not later than one hour before the polls open on election, primary, or referenda day, the moderator shall perform each of the following:

- (1) Designate another poll worker to oversee the execution of any emergency procedure, in the event the moderator is unavailable or otherwise incapacitated. Notify the Registrar of Voters of situation as it occurs.
- (2) Assign accountability for securing voting materials during an emergency. The moderator shall instruct the poll worker assigned accountability for securing the voting materials that such poll worker shall secure such materials in the event of an emergency, only if time and conditions permit.
- (3) Assign accountability to a poll worker who shall, upon notification of an emergency situation, note which voters have been checked through but have not yet voted. The moderator shall instruct the poll worker that this task shall be completed in the event of an emergency, only if time and conditions permit.
- (4) Point out the location of fire extinguishers, fire alarms, emergency exits, the place of shelter and the predetermined assembly point outside of the polling location.
- (5) Ensure that all emergency exits are free of obstructions.
- (6) Check the facility for any potential hazards and if necessary, alert the facility management staff responsible for addressing any such hazards.

Sec. 9-174a-15. Report of any execution of the Emergency Contingency Plan

Following the execution of any portion of the Emergency Contingency Plan at the polling location, the moderator for that polling location shall notify the registrar of voters which includes, but is not limited to, the nature of the emergency, the actual process invoked to address the emergency, and an assessment of the efficacy of the process.

Sec. 9-174a-16. Unavailable polling location

In the event a polling location becomes unavailable, the registrars of voters shall perform each of the following:

- (1) Establish an alternative polling location pursuant to section 9-174a-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and PA 23-204 and notify the moderator and other poll workers.
- (2) Contact the facility management staff for the alternate polling location in order to open the building.
- (3) In consultation with the moderator, ensure that the polling location is properly set up to conduct election, primary or referenda. Ensure that voting equipment is tested and functions properly or that sufficient paper ballots are available.
- (4) Notify voters of the new polling location.

Sec. 9-174a-17. Accounting of remaining ballots

Throughout election, primary, or referenda day, periodically, the moderator shall be mindful of the number of ballots used and the number remaining that are available to be used. If more ballots have been used than were originally anticipated or a shortage seems likely, the moderator shall immediately notify the registrars of voters.

Sec. 9-174a-18. Ballot shortage

In the event of a ballot shortage, the moderator shall immediately notify the registrars of voters who will supply more ballots.

Sec. 9-174a-19. Voting tabulator machine malfunction

The moderator shall follow the written procedure established under this section in the event a voting tabulator machine malfunction.

Sec. 9-174a-20. Help America Vote Act compliant voting machine malfunction

In the event of a malfunction of the Help America Vote Act compliant voting machine, the moderator shall attempt to resolve the problem. If unable to resolve malfunction, consult with the registrars of voters to determine the availability of any spare machines or the steps for voting using paper ballots. Alert the poll workers to the situation.

Sec. 9-174a-21. Shortage or absence of poll workers

In the event of a shortage of poll workers, the moderator shall immediately notify the registrars of voters who shall provide replacement poll workers when possible.

Sec. 9-174a-22. Absence of moderator

In the event a moderator fails to report to a polling location, the present poll workers shall perform each of the following:

(1) Notify the registrars of voters.

(2) Upon the arrival of the replacement moderator, familiarize the replacement moderator to the polling location and the Emergency Contingency Plan.

Sec. 9-174a-23. Replacement of moderator

In the event that a moderator may need to be relieved of duty, the registrars of voters shall perform each of the following:

(1) Evaluate the moderator's ability to perform the designated responsibilities.

(2) In the event the existing moderator is unable to perform the designated duties, tell the moderator that the moderator is being relieved of the moderator's duties and tell the moderator to leave the premises.

(3) Once the existing moderator has left the premises, immediately designate a replacement moderator from the pool of replacement poll workers and notify the replacement moderator where to report.

(4) Upon the arrival of the replacement moderator, familiarize the replacement moderator to the polling location.

Sec. 9-174a-24. Poll worker replacement

In the event that a poll worker may need to be removed on the day of an election, primary or referenda, the moderator shall perform each of the following:

(1) Evaluate the poll worker's ability to perform the poll worker's designated responsibilities.

(2) In the event an existing poll worker is unable to perform the designated duties, tell the poll worker that the poll worker is being relieved of the poll worker's duties and tell the poll worker to leave the premises.

(3) Once the existing poll worker has left the premises, immediately designate a replacement and notify the replacement poll worker where to report.

(4) Upon the arrival of the replacement poll worker, familiarize the replacement poll worker to the polling location.

Sec. 9-174a-25. Long lines at polling location

In the event of long lines at a polling location, the moderator shall contact the registrars of voters to determine what can be done to alleviate the waiting time.

Sec. 9-174a-26. Evacuation procedure

In the event that a polling location needs to be evacuated, the moderator shall perform each of the following:

- (1) Alert all individuals present of the emergency situation and direct them to the predetermined assembly point.
- (2) Get a headcount and use this headcount to make certain everyone present is evacuated from the polling location.
- (3) Identify any individuals with disabilities and ensure that they receive assistance, if needed, to evacuate the polling location.
- (4) Secure voting equipment and materials.
- (5) If the emergency situation has been resolved, consult with the emergency personnel and the registrars of voters to determine if the polling location can be re-entered.
- (6) If the polling location can be re-entered, first notify the poll workers to return. Then, notify the voters that they can enter the polling location.
- (7) If it is determined that an alternate location should be utilized, provide poll workers and any voters who have not yet voted with the address of the alternate location.

Sec. 9-174a-27. Loss of power at the polling location

In the event that the polling location loses power, the moderator shall perform each of the following:

- (1) Alert everyone present to the situation.
- (2) Contact the registrar of voters and the public works director to determine the source of the outage and what action needs to be taken to resume power.
- (4) Find an alternate source of light, such as the flashlights that can be used to continue voting until power is restored.
- (5) If it is feasible, consider using an area of the building where natural light is available or temporary lighting can be directed.
- (6) If the backup power supply for the voting machine has been depleted, connect a generator.
- (7) If the generator is unavailable or runs out of power, continue voting using paper ballots.

Sec. 9-174a-28. Medical emergency procedure

In the event of a medical emergency at the polling location, the moderator shall perform each of the following:

- (1) Contact emergency services and follow the instructions given by emergency personnel.
- (2) Stop voting operations until an assessment of the situation can be made.
- (3) Determine if there is a doctor, nurse, emergency medical technician or other certified first aid provider in the polling location that may be able to assist the ill or injured person.
- (4) Keep the ill or injured person as comfortable as possible while waiting for emergency personnel to respond. Do not attempt to move the ill or injured person unless instructed to do so by a certified first aid provider or emergency personnel.
- (5) Provide the responding officer or medical personnel with the details of what happened to the ill or injured person.

Sec. 9-174a-29. Smoke, fire or active alarm procedure

In the event of a smoke, fire, fire alarm or other activated alarm, the moderator shall perform each of the following:

- (1) Activate the fire alarm if it is not already activated.
- (2) Alert everyone present to the nature of the situation.
- (3) Evacuate the polling location.
- (4) Contact emergency personnel.
- (5) Consult with the emergency personnel and registrars of voters to determine if original polling location can be utilized.
- (6) If the polling location can be re-entered, first notify the poll workers to return. Then, notify the voters that they can enter the polling location.
- (7) If it is determined that an alternate polling location should be utilized, provide poll workers and any voters who have not yet voted with the address of the alternate location.

Sec. 9-174a-30. Gas leak procedure

In the event of a gas leak, the moderator shall perform each of the following:

- (1) Immediately evacuate the polling location To limit the possibility of an explosion, warn poll workers and voters not to use telephones, fire alarms, light switches and appliances when gas is detected.
- (2) Once safely outside of the building, alert emergency services and the gas company.

(3) Wait for the gas company representative and emergency personnel to arrive in order to assess the situation and determine the viability of continuing voting operations.

(4) Consult with the responding gas company representative, emergency personnel and registrars of voters to determine if original polling location can be utilized.

(5) If the polling location can be re-entered, first notify the poll workers to return. Then, notify the voters that they can enter the polling location.

(6) If it is determined that an alternate location should be utilized, provide poll workers and any voters who have not yet voted with the address of the alternate location.

Sec. 9-174a-31. Disorder at the polling location procedure

In the event of disorder in or around the polling location, including, but not limited to, unlawful protesting, threats of violence or rioting the moderator shall notify the registrar of voters and contact emergency services immediately and then follow any instructions provided by emergency personnel. The moderator shall follow the evacuation procedure if evacuation is required.

Sec. 9-174a-32. Disaster procedure

In the event of any disaster, natural or otherwise, including, but not limited to, chemical emergencies, dam failures, earthquakes, exposure to hazardous materials, floods, extreme heat, hurricanes, tornados, or severe winter weather the registrars of voters shall follow the procedures in the most recent local Emergency Plan of Operations that each town or city has developed pursuant to section 28-7(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, or subsequent state law.

Sec. 9-174a-33. Security threat procedure

In the event of any security threats near the polling location, including, but not limited to, the discovery of a suspicious object, a bomb threat, an explosion, a biological threat, a chemical threat, or a nuclear blast, the registrars of voters shall follow the procedures in the most recent local Emergency Plan of Operations that each town or city has developed pursuant to section 28-7(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, or subsequent state law.

Sec. 9-174a-34. Nuclear disaster procedure

In the event of any threat of the release of radioactive material or any nuclear power plant emergency, the registrars of voters for any city or town designated as an emergency planning zone community or host community by the Department of Emergency Maintenance and Homeland Security, or subsequent state agency, shall follow the procedure on the most recent plans and guidelines set by the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Unit, or any subsequent division that handles radiological preparedness.

Curt Bosco

From: Savannah-Nicole Villalba <snvillalba@nvcogct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:47 AM
To: Savannah-Nicole Villalba
Cc: Rick Dunne; Emely Ricci; Molly Johnson; Pheobe Ploof
Subject: 02/29/24 - NVCOG Land Use Coffee Hour on Short-Term Rentals
Attachments: 022924 - NVCOG Land Use Coffee Hour - Short Term Rentals.pdf

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Greetings NVCOG Land Use Community,

NVCOG will be hosting a Land Use Coffee Hour regarding Short-Term Rentals on **Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 10 AM**. We would like to thank Cheshire's Town Planner/Development Coordinator, Mike Glidden, CFM, CZEO for leading our discussion. Mike was instrumental in drafting one of the only adopted short-term rental ordinances in the State.

This event will be hybrid. You can register to attend virtually here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErcyoyqD8sGtWQVA6-2VEUxRFsNuunRoMx#/registration>.

Should you wish to attend in person, please RSVP to me by end of day on Monday, February 26, 2024, so that we can ensure we get enough donuts.

Sincerely,
SN

Savannah-Nicole (SN) Villalba, AICP, AZT
Community Planning Director



49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury CT, 06702
t: 203.757.0535 ext. 140 | e: snvillalba@nvcogct.gov
direct: 475.233.2083 | w: www.nvcogct.gov

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**Thursday,
February 29
2024
10:00 - 11:00 AM**

Join the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for a
LAND USE COFFEE HOUR
on
Short-Term Rentals

Join us virtually or in person!

NVCOG Offices
49 Leavenworth Street
2nd Floor

**Or register to attend
virtually at the link below:**

Middlebury CT 06762

Ms. Jennifer Mahr

1212 Whittemore Road
Middlebury CT 06762

Dear Ms. Jennifer Mahr,

Hello my name is Bryce Erwin and im 10 years old. I am a fellow resident of the town of Middlebury. I am writting to you today to ask if we could have ice Cream trucks in the Summer.

In 2021 we had ice cream trucks come by in the summer, but they stopped it. Me and my friends on my street like ice cream during those hot summer days. We play alot outside in the summer and we like ice cream.

If you read this and respond to this thank you!

From,

L.
Bryce Erwin

Bryce Erwin

Liana St. Germain

From: Middlebury DTC <middlebury.democrats@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 15:08
To: J. Paul Vance; Jennifer Mahr; First Selectman
Subject: Request to defer filling vacancies on town boards and commissions
Attachments: Attachment#1-OutgoingMDTCnominations.pdf; Attachment#2GuideforDTCchairs.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Email support@computercompany.net if you doubt the validity of this email.

Dear Board of Selectmen,

I am writing on behalf of the endorsed members of the incoming Democratic Town Committee to request that the Board of Selectmen defer filling any minority vacancies on town boards and commissions until the incoming MDTC has an opportunity to review and amend the nomination lists that were voted on by the outgoing MDTC at their last meeting.

As the past year has demonstrated, Middlebury's citizens have become engaged in local government at unprecedented levels. From packed auditoriums for conservation committee hearings, to a record municipal election turnout in November, to the recent wholesale turnover of the MDTC, people are clamoring to get involved. For years, the sitting MDTC has drawn on a very limited pool of names to fill positions on town boards and commissions, citing difficulty in finding people willing to serve. We have not found this to be the case. In this most recent round of nominations, despite very limited public notice of the openings, several qualified candidates came forward, but their names were not advanced by the MDTC. At the same time, one person was nominated for three different positions, and one nominee to the Board of Ethics is the spouse of a town employee (see attachment #1-candidates endorsed by the outgoing MDTC to be advanced to the BOS). This raises serious concerns about conflicts of interest and about the fundamental fairness of the process by which nominations are solicited and advanced.

The recommended procedure for nominating democrats to boards or commissions, published in the CT State Democratic party's "Guide for DTC Chairs" involves a 4 month process (see attachment #2). It begins with a press release in a local paper announcing the vacancies and the process by which interested persons should apply. This announcement is then followed by a period of 1-2 months for reviewing applications and vetting and meeting with all applicants. Only after this process is completed are names advanced to the DTC for a vote and then on to the BOS. I don't believe that any of these position vacancies were noticed in the *Voices* (thus failing to meet the public notice recommendation). Several of the positions are conditional upon one member resigning if they are appointed to another position. One position had just become vacant the morning of the meeting. As such, they could not possibly have been properly noticed, nor could applications have been appropriately solicited. Further, not all candidates had the opportunity to meet with the DTC nominating committee to discuss their applications. The list of nominees that was voted on by the outgoing MDTC at its meeting on 2/13/24 was not the result of the fair process that we, as citizens, have a right to expect. The incoming MDTC is committed to thoroughly evaluating all candidates in the manner described above. For the BOS to vote on the nominees advanced by the outgoing MDTC without completion of the steps outlined in the Guide for DTC Chairs, and without any input from the incoming MDTC would be a missed opportunity to strive toward the goal of increasing participation in town government—a goal the entire Board of Selectman has publicly endorsed.

Deferring a vote by the BOS on the outgoing MDTC's recommendations so that the incoming MDTC can evaluate and amend these nominations signals a commitment to democracy and ethics that will enhance participation in our local government and ultimately strengthen our town as a whole—a goal I am confident that we all share.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

