



Town of Middlefield

Communications Committee

FY 2013 Annual Report

The Communications Committee is pleased to report on progress in upgrading and maintaining the Town's communications infrastructure during FY 2013.

The Town Website

New Town website at www.middlefieldma.net, which employs the popular and powerful WordPress content management system (CMS), has been running without a hitch since its implementation last year. Various boards and committees have been regularly adding calendar events and uploading their minutes, and more and more community events and vital town information have been submitted for posting. We no longer have to rely on costly outside resources to enhance and maintain our site.

New website features include access to our powerful, new online GIS described below. We also expect to provide realtime access to production data for the Town's new photoelectric array.

The Town Hall Network

The totally rewired Town Hall network is likewise running smoothly. The dual system provides an open, public network for library and general use, and a separate, secure network for official town use. There is public, wireless access throughout the Town Hall for meetings, auditorium presentations, and many other uses.

The Middlefield GIS

We instituted a powerful geographic information system (GIS), accessed via the town website. The portal includes many types of information developed by MassGIS, which awarded funds to Cartographic Associates for the digitizing of Middlefield's data. The system involves several technical components including a broad range of spacial and tabular data from numerous sources. It supports numerous queries, including:

- Building Commissioner inquiries including topography, zoning, lot dimensions, setbacks and easements, and detached structures
- DEP wetlands & Title 5 setbacks for Bldg Commissioner & Conservation Commission
- Abutters lists for Assessors, foresters, and Zoning Board of Appeals
- Lost persons and other GIS location for Police Department

- Communications Committee pole mapping for WiredWest initiative
- Town residential and commercial zones for Planning Board
- Searches by all departments (by owner name, map & lot, location, etc.)
- Outdoor toilets & abandoned vehicles for Board of Health and Building Commissioner
- Points of interest for residents and visitors

As time goes on, we expect to implement numerous GIS-related enhancements, including NextGen-9-1-1.

WiredWest

We continue to be an active participant in the WiredWest cooperative to bring universal broadband access to underserved communities. The addition of 16 towns over the past year brings the current membership to 42 towns.

We conducted a major drive to get folks to fill out cards to show their support for WiredWest's mission to bring high-speed fiber service to Middlefield. To date, 39 percent of households have signed up. If you haven't done so already, please click on the link on our website to fill out a card. You'll also find a WiredWest link on our site, which you can click to get the latest information on the progress of the project.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Harris
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