

Town Center Building Removal

July 21, 2020

More than a decade ago, the Middlefield General Store and the house next door were abandoned. The EPA declared the buildings contaminated by gasoline tanks and kerosene tanks on the premises, and conducted extensive remediation. The Town Center Committee was formed shortly after to deal with the abandoned properties. The Committee spent years negotiating with the EPA and various state agencies to understand the liabilities that Middlefield faced, and worked diligently towards understanding what was needed to absolve Middlefield of the responsibility for paying for the environmental clean-up. Once it was determined that Middlefield no longer incurred any responsibility, the Town moved forward by taking the properties for back taxes. The building inspector condemned the store building because it is not structurally sound and both buildings have been deemed not worth salvaging. Therefore, the town has decided to take the buildings down in late July–early August, and to create a town center park on the land.

