

August 29, 2017
Dow Jones Industrials

+56.97

21,865.37

Record High: Aug. 3, 2017
22,026.10

August 29, 2017
S&P 500

+2.06

2,446.30

Record High: Aug. 1, 2017
2,477.57

August 29, 2017
Nasdaq

+18.87

6,301.89

Record High: July 26, 2017
6,422.75

Middletown Planning Commission decides against non-voting member positions

By JOSH JANNEY
The Winchester Star

MIDDLETOWN — The town's Planning Commission decided on Monday to nix a proposal to start creating non-voting member positions.

The commission is currently short of two voting members because of the recent departures of former Chairman Mark Davis and former member Phil Breeden.

Interim Chairman Daryl Terrill previously asked if it was possible to appoint local developer Robert "Robbie" Molden to the commission. Molden manages A & R Rentals LLC in Middletown, and he also serves on the Frederick County Planning Commission.

Though Molden has a street address on Reliance Road, he lives outside the town limits. As a result, Terrill said that state code prohibits Molden from serving on the commission as a voting member. He did say, however, that the law would allow for the Planning Commission to accept Molden as a non-voting advisory member.

However, the commission agreed through a consensus — not a vote — that creating a new position would cause more trouble than it's worth.

"I was in favor of it initially, but the more I thought about it the more I'm not

so sure it's a good idea," Terrill said. "I think we are opening up a can of worms."

Jeff Pennington, who serves as Town Council liaison, said he concurred with Terrill. Pennington's concern was that Molden would be biased toward development. He said to counter Molden's bias, a "preservation-minded" person would have been needed to be brought on board.

"I never was in favor of it right from the get-go," said commission member John Copeland.

Commission member Joan Roche said the panel could use the knowledge of local developers without having to make them commission members.

"I think Robbie has a lot of knowledge and expertise on building and real estate," Roche said. "And I think he would be more than happy; if we wanted to use him and get advice from him on certain things, he would be more than willing to share his advice for us on that level."

Attending the meeting at the Middletown Town Office were Interim Chairman Daryl Terrill and members Joan Roche, John Copeland and Frank Meres. Shayla Wharton was absent.

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Project HOPE partners with Team Rubicon to assist Texas with tropical storm relief

By CATHY KUEHNER
The Winchester Star

MILLWOOD — Project HOPE, an international health care organization headquartered in Millwood, is partnering with the disaster-response organization Team Rubicon to assist in Texas, where Tropical Storm Harvey and continued rain has caused widespread flooding of historic proportions and left tens of thousands of people homeless.

Team Rubicon, which pairs the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders and medical professionals, currently has personnel on the ground conducting flood-water rescue operations in Harris and Galveston counties in Texas.

Team Rubicon is coordinating with local authorities to assess needs in flooded areas, according to a Project HOPE news release.

"This disaster is overwhelming and the need for food, water and shelter is growing by the hour," said Dr. Tom Kenyon, president and chief executive officer of the nonprofit organization Project HOPE.

The health care infrastructure is struggling to treat victims because many hospitals have been damaged by flooding, roadways are impassable, and the health needs of people in shelters is expected to rapidly increase.

The Category 4 storm, the

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— Dr. Tom Kenyon

President and chief executive officer of the nonprofit organization Project HOPE

most powerful to hit the U.S. in a decade, hit the Texas coastline Friday night with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph.

By Saturday, Harvey was downgraded to a Category 1 storm and stalled over the Gulf Coast. Continued rainfall means it is inevitable that already historic flooding will worsen.

In this critical early phase of the disaster, Project HOPE is supporting Team Rubicon by providing financial support through donations on its website — projecthope.org — and other fundraising initiatives, said Project HOPE Director of Communications Geraldine Carroll.

"We are also on standby to send medical volunteers if they are needed," she said. "There will be many health needs emerging from what is certain to be a long process of recovery and rebuilding. The work doesn't end when the rain stops.

"That's when the real work begins," Carroll continued. "[Project HOPE] will assess the needs and then develop a plan to address those needs."

Team Rubicon was found-

ed in 2010 by two Marines who felt called to help in Haiti after its devastating magnitude 7.0 earthquake. Today, Team Rubicon has more than 48,000 volunteers across the country who have responded to more than 200 disasters across the United States and the world.

Once health needs are assessed in Texas, Project HOPE, which specializes in building long-term care after the initial shock of man-made or natural disasters, will prepare to mobilize its volunteer teams in Texas to help address the most pressing health needs emerging from what is certain to be a long process of recovery and rebuilding.

In 2005, Project HOPE similarly deployed medical volunteers in collaboration with the U.S. Navy effort in response to Hurricane Katrina.

Learn more at projecthope.org and follow it on Twitter @projecthopeorg. Find Team Rubicon at teammrubiconusa.org.

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