

HILLTOWN HIKING ADVENTURES



Grand views from Prospect Hill in Chester looking over the Westfield River Valley.



Jim Moore stand in the mine main opening.

Submitted photos

Hikers visit quartz quarries

CHESTER – All of the quartz mined in Chester occurs in igneous formations known as hydrothermal veins. This type of vein is formed by a hot, watery solution into the surrounding rock, usually into a pre-existent crack. Hydrothermal veins often contain valuable minerals, including gold. The old time gold miners often searched for quartz out cropping in the hills hoping to strike gold. The veins quarried for quartz in Chester, however, are pure quartz. There are several quartz quarries in



People can see the slot where a timber fit in to reinforce the mine shaft entrance.

Chester one off Round Hill Road, one in Chester center, Black Pool Quarry and here on Prospect Hill high above the Chester Granite and Polishing Works. The pure white rock was brought down the mountain on sleds using pulleys ending up just about where the Granite Saw parking lot is on Emery

Street where team moved it to the finishing mill on Walker Brook. The Prospect Hill quarry was mined in the latter half of the nineteenth century by James Keefe. The quartz was processed in his mill near the junction of Walker Brook and the West Branch. This mill had a bad

reputation among old timers in town. It is said that a man would work six months in this mill and then drop from silicosis caused by inhaling quartz dust. The quartz was used for, among other things, glass-making, watches and as a lining for kilns. These hills are rich with minerals.



A beautiful piece of quartz found on the run where quartz was brought down the mountain to Emery Street on sleds with pulleys.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P1366EA
Chester E Danek
Also known as:
Chester E Danek, Jr.
Date of Death: 04/07/2025
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR SALE OF
REAL ESTATE BY A
PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Frances H Couture of Mooresville, NC** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/17/2025.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
Witness, **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 14, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
12/11/2025
TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD
PLAYGROUND
EQUIPMENT AND
INSTALLATION PROJECT
REQUEST FOR BIDS
The Town of Middlefield is seeking Bids for the purchase and installation of a new play-

ground system for ages 5 through 12 years of age by a Contractor in the center of Middlefield at 172 Skyline Trail adjacent to the Middlefield Senior Center. The Town is also requesting the Contractor to furnish and install required playground border timbers and stakes shown for existing swing sets and Monkey Bar Area. Measurements of the areas to receive the timbers are in the Bid Documents. The Contractor will also be responsible for providing and installing a new geodesic cloth barrier to cover all areas to receive safety barrier fill by others. All new and existing areas will be prepared by others for the installation of the border timbers by the successful Bidder. Safety filling of each area will also be provided and installed by others. The plan calls for the use of approved rounded wood chip bark mulch per the state required depth. The successful playground contractor shall provide at least a one-year warranty on all parts and labor. Extended warranties are welcomed.
Bid documents will be available starting on Monday December 1, 2025, and will be available until 2:00 P.M. on December 22, 2025. Bids documents can be requested by contacting the Town of Middlefield Administrative Assistant Mark Doane at middlefieldassistant@gmail.com or by calling the Middlefield Town Hall at 413-623-2079 ext. 2. Bids can also be picked up from the Middlefield Administrative Assistant Office located in the Select Board Office 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on Mondays from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Wednesdays from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. The Select Board Office is located in the Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. There is no cost for Bid Documents. It is suggested that Bidders view the site of the new playground system which will be constructed on the site of the existing playground adjacent to the Middlefield Senior Center located at 172 Skyline Trail in Middlefield, MA. All Bids must be received by the Middlefield Administrative Assistant no later than Monday December 22, 2025, at 2:00P.M.

All bids must be delivered to the Town Administrative Assistant's Office located in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 in sealed envelopes with Playground System Bid printed on the envelope by 2:00 P.M. on December 22, 2025. No Bids will be accepted after that time and date. Bids will be opened immediately after the close of Bidding at 2:05 P.M. in the Middlefield Town Hall. The project will be awarded immediately after Bids are opened and the project shall begin when weather conditions and site preparations are completed. All work in this Bid shall be completed no later than April 24, 2026.
Note: Massachusetts Prevailing Rates are required to be paid on this project. Questions can be directed to Ann Marie Visconti Chair, Middlefield Select Board by calling 413-623-2079, 413-433-2729, or by email: middlefield.amv@gmail.com.
12/04, 12/11/2025
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Central Massachusetts
Division
10 Mechanic Street, Suite 301
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 792-7600
(508) 795-1991
www.mass.gov/ago
ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL
October 14, 2025
Suzanne C. Lemieux,
Town Clerk
P.O. Box 265
Middlefield, MA 01243
Re: Middlefield Annual Town Meeting of May 3, 2025 - Case # 11996
Warrant Articles # 32 and 33 (General)
Dear Ms. Lemieux:
Article 32 - We approve Article 32 from the May 3, 2025 Middlefield Annual Town Meeting.
Article 33 - We take no action on Article 33 because it is not a by-law amendment and is therefore not subject to the Attorney General's review and approval under G.L. c. 40 32. Under Arti-

cle 33 the Town voted "to establish a 'strong' fire chief statute [under]...MGL Chapter 48, Section[s] 42, 43, and 44." General Laws Chapter 48, Section 42 provides in relevant part:
Towns accepting the provisions of this section and sections forty-three and forty-four, or which have accepted corresponding provisions of earlier laws may establish a fire department to be under the control of an officer to be known as the chief of the fire department. The chief shall be appointed by the selectmen, and shall receive such salary as the selectmen may from time to time determine, not exceeding in the aggregate the amount annually appropriated therefor. He may be removed for cause by the selectmen at any time after a hearing. He shall have charge of extinguishing fires in the town and the protection of life and property in case of fire. He shall purchase subject to the approval of the selectmen and keep in repair all property and apparatus used for and by the fire department. He shall have and exercise all the powers and discharge all the duties conferred or imposed by statute upon engineers in towns except as herein provided, and shall appoint a deputy chief and such officers and firemen as he may think necessary, and may remove the same at any time for cause and after a hearing. He shall have full and absolute authority in the administration of the department, shall make all rules and regulations for its operation, shall report to the selectmen from time to time as they may require, and shall annually report to the town the condition of the department with his recommendations thereon; he shall fix the compensation of the permanent and call members of the fire department subject to the approval of the selectmen. In the expenditure of money the chief shall be subject to such further limitations as the town may from time to time prescribe. The appointment of the chief of the fire department in any town or district having a population of five thousand or less may be for a period of three years.
Because Article 33 is a vote to accept a local option statute, and not a by-law, it is not subject to

the Attorney General's review and approval. For that reason, we take no action on Article 33. However, votes to accept statutes are supposed to be filed with the Secretary of State's Office and if the vote involves a financial matter, with the Department of Revenue/Division of local Services as well. The Town should consult with Town Counsel with any questions on this issue.
Note: Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, neither general nor zoning by-laws take effect unless the town has first satisfied the

posting/publishing requirements of that statute.
Very truly yours,
ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL
By: Nicole B. Caprioli
Assistant Attorney General
Deputy Director, Municipal Law Unit
10 Mechanic Street, Suite 301
Worcester, MA 01608
(774) 214-4418
cc: Town Counsel
Lauren F. Goldberg
12/04, 12/11/2025

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