

August 4, 2008 - Special Town Council Meeting

At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Newport Vineyards on Monday, August 4, 2008 at 5:48 P.M.

Vice Chair Shirley R. Mello, Presiding

Councillor Barbara A. Barrow

Councillor Louis P. DiPalma

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Robert J. Sylvia, Members Present

Council President Paul M. Rodrigues, Absent

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.

POSTED – July 31, 2008

Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

Town Hall – 350 East Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Dear Mrs. Marshall:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and act upon the following item of business:

Tour of Newport Vineyards facility - Discussion of local tourist industry (tourism/hospitality) and matters related thereto

Said meeting will be held on Monday, August 4, 2008, at 5:30 P.M. at the Newport Vineyards, 909 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

Paul M. Rodrigues, President

Middletown Town Council

CC:

Town Council

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

Public Library

This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

On motion of Councillor DiPalma, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication and open said meeting.

Tour of Newport Vineyards facility - Discussion of local tourist

industry (tourism/hospitality) and matters related thereto

Present also were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Town Planner Ron Wolanski, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay, State Senator June Gibbs, State Representative Bruce J. Long, representatives from the Newport Vineyards, Middletown Economic Development Committee, Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Newport County Chamber of Commerce, and the United States Navy.

John Nunes, representing the Newport Vineyards, addressed the Council reviewing the history of Newport Vineyards. Mr. Nunes family has owned the Vineyard since 1995; most of the lands used to grow the grapes for the wines have conservation easements on them.

The grapes are grown on the Nunes Farm Vineyard, Perry Farm Vineyard and Hopelands Vineyard. Mr. Nunes gave all in attendance a tour of the facility.

Discussion centered around the Newport Vineyard being a tourist attraction, surviving on tourism and the affect of weight limits on the Sakonnet River Bridge.

On motion of Councillor Barrow, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 6:40 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk