



# Middletown Beach Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

#### Middletown Fire Department Community Room

**PRESENT:** John Ceglarski, William Seiple, Kathleen Silveira,  
George Staples & Rian Wilkinson

**TOWN COUNCIL:** Dennis Turano & Antone Viveiros

**TOWN REPRESENTIVES:** Will Cronin & Steve Ponte

**PUBLIC:** Mike McGourty, Lifeguard Captain

Meeting was called to order at 4:35pm.

Minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting approved as printed.

Chairman Wilkinson introduced new commission member George Staples.

### **ITEMS DISCUSSED/ACTED UPON**

- A) Rian gave a brief review regarding the new committee established concerned with dog waste at the Town's parks and beaches. Sara Poirer is the chair, and includes citizens, various Town Representatives, as well as representatives from Clean Ocean Access and Aquidneck Island Land Trust.
- B) The BC agreed that signage and possibly waste receptacles would be an improvement. Discussion continued to the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting.
- C) BC agreed the worn stairs at the Second Beach pavilion should be repaired/replace as needed.
- D) Uniforms - BC agreed and recommended that all beach staff should be in uniforms for recognition, protection from foul weather and professionalism.

- E) Service Animals – Mike McGourty (Lifeguard Captain) reported that there has been an increased presence of Service and Compassion animals on the beaches. Service animals and their owners are well trained, but this is not always the case with compassion animals which have been causing some problems. Guides were distributed by Will Cronin that the State of RI uses for service animals. *Motion made by John Ceglarski and carried to forward commissions concerns to Town Solicitor Peter Reagan to be discussed at a future meeting.*
- F) It was recommended that the snow fence with boulders at the Navy/Town Beach entrance be replaced for more aesthetic appearance.
- G) Review procedures for Fall beach operations – showers, Port-A-Johns, mats, etc. Possibly into early October.
- H) St. George’s parking lot – have town study the lot layout and make suggestions for improvements and more efficient parking.
- I) Kayak racks – Will noted that the dunes where the racks are located are moving forward and ocean is coming up higher. This may make adding more racks difficult considering that the constant off-shore winds are of concern. Harbor Master Steve Ponte noted that there are already times when several kayakers/SUP’s have been blown away from the shore at the same time. To be discussed at future meeting.
- J) Food Trucks – BC supported movie and food truck nights.
- K) Dune Signs – BC recommended that the basic *Keep Off the Dunes* signs be purchased. They are inexpensive and less likely to be stolen.

## **2018 PROJECT LIST**

- A) Site work has begun on the Third Beach lot and meetings with DEM and NFW are planned. Permanent parking barriers as well, would give a professional appearance to the lot. A common-sense policy should be established concerning use of unused trailer spaces by beach patrons. Also, BC felt having an adult lot supervisor for 7 days a week (currently 5) would be an improvement.
- B) New beach tables and ramp guides have been previously discussed and should be completed by the beach season.

- C) New – Navy/Town Beach – access should be improved from the lot to the road using a Mobi mat. (It is a steep incline and covered with gravel.) Also, align cross walk with path from the lot.
- D) Second Beach – DEM and CRMC should be contacted about correcting the huge flooding area on the East side of the lot.
- E) Surfers End – Replant and fence/rope retention areas. Construct a small walkway to allow easier access to the Port-A-Johns from the beach.
- F) Dunes – this Fall, volunteers planted 1000 plants at the Navy Beach and approximately 10,000 plants were planted, by contractors, on the Second Beach paths. (Sandy Resiliency Project)
- G) Remove telephone polls on Third Beach Road – Peabody’s Beach to Navy/Resident Beach.

Next meeting called for January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59PM.

Rian Wilkinson, Chairman  
Middletown Beach Commission