



Middletown Beach Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 8th, 2018

Middletown Fire Department Community Room

PRESENT: John Ceglarski, John Crimmons, David Leys, William Seiple,
Kathleen Silveira, George Staples & Rian Wilkinson

TOWN REPRESENTIVES: Will Cronin & Steve Ponte

Meeting was called to order at 4:35pm.

Minutes of the February 13th, 2018 meeting approved as printed.

ITEMS DISCUSSED/ACTED UPON

A) SERVICE ANIMALS

Accepted policy statement from Town Solicitor Peter Regan.
Forwarded to Town Council.

B) CAMPGROUND FEES

Approved by Town Council at their March 5, 2018 meeting:
2018 - \$5,800; 2019 - \$6,800; 2020 - \$7,800 and \$8,800 for 2021.
Daily rates will be increased accordingly.

C) PROJECT UPDATES – WILL CRONIN

Completed or in final stages:

- 1) Four (4) new shower turrets in main lot – Second Beach
- 2) Sun lotion dispensers at all beaches – donated by Aspire Dermatology
- 3) Second Beach East of main gate – drainage system repaired
- 4) Campground and Second Beach – on going repairs – new stairs, windows, siding, etc.

- 5) Parking lot supervisors at Ramp lot 7 days a week
- 6) New flag pole installed at Ramp lot
- 7) Boat ramp guides installed
- 8) Two (2) additional kayak racks installed at Ramp lot to town beach

Open and/or In Progress

- 1) Third Beach parking lots resurfacing – upgrading parking
- 2) Ramp Lot - parking guide markers, etc. – patron parking in unused trailer spaces at discretion of lot manager and/or harbor master
- 3) Rock border at entrance to Navy beach – unloading area
- 4) Reline crosswalk at Navy beach – Mobi mat from parking lot to road
- 5) Remove telephone poles along Third Beach Road – possible private intervention
- 6) Scheduling of movie nights at Second Beach

D) CREEK UP DATE

After a blizzard and then heavy rains, the creek is now open again. NFW is constructing a new culvert to direct more run-off into the swamp rather than the beach – estimated completion date May 24, 2018

E) NARRAGANSETT BEACH

Rian reported that Narragansett Beach is raising non-resident walk on rates to \$10.00. Steve Wright stated that there were many complaints about over-crowding resulting in friction between beach patrons. It is hoped that this will reduce the numbers.

John Ceglarski suggested that the town investigate some method to control the number of patrons allowed on the beaches.

NEW BUSINESS

- A) **The Beach Commission** expressed concern that the planned pass sales at the Main Gate would create traffic jams and delays, especially if the weather is good during the upcoming Memorial Day weekend. The Beach Commission voted to forward a recommendation that alternate sights be considered, including the Gazebo lot.
- B) **Dune conservation** – Rian reported that staff and faculty from St. George's planted 1500 dune grass plants at Second and Third Beaches. This has been an on-going alliance for over 20 years.

C) **Solar Lights** – Second Beach and Campground - there is some concern that the large solar lights somewhat negate the removal of the telephone poles. They are bigger and more visible than a similar system at the boat ramp. Will reported these lights were needed for security.

D) **New Beach Manager** – Rian introduced Craig Schmidt the new beach manager. Rian stated that he has known him for 8 years when he first started work as a lifeguard. Last year he served as the Rock Beach Lifeguard Captain. Rian felt he was a “Beach Person” and would do a good job.

Next meeting called for June 12th, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Rian Wilkinson, Chairman
Middletown Beach Commission