



Middletown Beach Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 14th, 2018

Middletown Fire Department Community Room

PRESENT: William Seiple, Kathleen Silveira, George Staples & Rian Wilkinson
TOWN REPRESENTIVES: Will Cronin, Steve Ponte & Craig Schmidt
TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: Theresa Santos, Dennis Turano &
Antone Viveiros
BEACH PATRON: David Rushlow

Meeting was called to order at 4:40pm.

Minutes of the June 12th, 2018 meeting approved as printed.

ITEMS DISCUSSED/ACTED UPON

A) PROJECT UPDATES

Town moved the little used “second lifeguard tower” from Third Beach to the Resident Beach. Having a lifeguard presence at the Resident Beach has already proved beneficial. Lost children, a patron dispute and monitoring the dune program were all resolved by the lifeguard staff during the first weekend.

The Resident Beach auxiliary gate has been improved.

New beach designation flags and a Sachuest Beach sign have been installed.

B) FOUNDERS DAY

The town is in the final stages of possibly the largest celebration in the history of the town. Beginning at Paradise Park in the morning and ending at Sachuest Beach with a fireworks show.

C) MONDAY FAMILY NIGHTS

Will Cronin reported that they have been a complete success to date. Hundreds of people have attended, encouraged by outstanding weather, food trucks, bands and bon fires. Hopefully these family nights will continue in 2019.

D) DUNE PROGRAM

Chairman Wilkinson reported that the dunes are in the best condition that he has ever seen in 50 years. A combination of fencing, planting, natural reseeding, new path design and patron control have resulted in over 90% dune coverage. Additional fencing is planned at “no man’s land” and spot planting at both Second and Third beaches in the spring. Rian also noted that the faculty and students from St. Georges School have been involved in the beach conservation programs for over 20 years.

E) VEHICLE PATH

In the initial Mobie Mat planning, the main entrance had additional plantings which necessitated a path be cut through the dunes to accommodate beach vehicles (to the right, west). Due to plan change, the path has been little used, and vehicles use the main path. However, at times, both vehicles and patrons use the new path creating a dangerous situation. Ironically, this is the only area on the entire beach where there is considerable erosion. Until a new plan is formulated, it should be fenced to avoid further erosion.

F) BEACH CAMERAS

Waiting for information

G) BEACH CLOSINGS

Third Beach was closed for swimming in some parts by the State due to high bacteria counts. This was unusual since most closings are after heavy rains which was not the case. Steve Ponte reported that much of the sea floor near the NFW outflow was barren. The BC will review the problem during the coming year and hopefully have representative from the State and NW attend the meeting.

H) NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Santos asked Beach Manager Craig Schmidt about drinking on Second Beach. Craig reported that this has been his main concern this summer. He noted there has been improved cooperation with the MPD and the situation has improved significantly. He also stated, that Lt. Beck has been instrumental in the improvement which included additional MPD patrols, posted and electric no drinking signage.

Dave Rushlow was concerned about the ongoing disputes with the Newport Beach House. This has included beach goers and in general, all access to the beach. The BC responded that this is under the jurisdiction of the Town Council and they have been in long-term negotiations with the owners. Hopefully, an amicable agreement will be reached in the near future.

Beach Commission member Staples also remarked that the town “right of way” in the West lot is in poor condition. This will be included in the 2019 improvement list.

Councilman Turano suggested that a marker be placed at the Resident Beach cross walk. It was agreed this was a good idea and hopefully one would be in place by end of summer.

Next meeting called for September 11th, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Rian Wilkinson, Chairman
Middletown Beach Commission