



Town of Middletown

TOWN HALL 350 EAST MAIN ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND 02842

**Town of Middletown
Conservation Commission
Middletown Town Hall
March 12, 2007
Minutes**

Present: Gary Paquette, Chairman, Robert Johnson, Paul Barrow, Peter Tarpgaard, Stan Ehrlich, Betty Jane Owen, Members. Sewers Rats NNU: Roger Wells, John McCain, Dave Wixted. Town Administrator, Gerry Kempen.

The meeting was called to order by Gary Paquette, Chairman, at 6:10 PM. A quorum of members was present.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

General Meeting:

John McCain , representing the Newport Sewer Rats, NNU, gave an update on the progress by the Newport group. He mentioned the ongoing projects including:

1. Two member Clean Ocean Access Surveillance
2. A petition drive to prohibit new sewer service hookups until problems such as the one with DEM were straightened out.
3. Ad Hoc committee of Sewer Rats who hoped to help in the solution to problems.

Discussion ensued regarding the Middletown sewer problems such as the results of the recent house inspections and pipe repairs. Gerry Kempen, Town Administrator, stated that the real problem is dealing with storm water run off which resulted in difficulties with the pumping station.

John McCain handed out charts to the commission which detailed the Rhode Island department of Health monitoring program, Clean Water Access 2006-2007. Sample results for the Atlantic Beach Club for Enterococci. These charts showed rain dates in Newport, amounts of rainfall and the amount of Enterococci located at the mouth of the pipe at the beach. The major impact is when there is lots of rain but readings can be high without rain. The 36" pipe which covers approximately 100 acres of organized residential area showed impact from birds and animals whereas human impact was negligible.

Gerry Kempen said that levels of bacteria are throughout the town system. He mentioned that the town has looked at a number of solutions to the problem including:

1. Ultra violet radiation by Sun Light Systems.
2. Ab-Tech- a sponge like filter for water. However, these two companies would not give a guarantee to the success of their work. The Wood's Hole study of the problem in a preliminary report suggested an extension of the pipe by 2,000 to 5,000 feet out into the ocean.

April 6, 2007

Gerry Kempen reported progress was being made on the Sewer Contract. He said issues were being worked out. He stated there are no easy answers to the problems but that public input was good to have.

Adjournment: There being no other business, a motion was made and seconded for adjournment at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Jane Owen