

Minutes

Of the meeting of Tuesday October 10, 2017 of the Middletown, RI Conservation Commission

Present: Gary Paquette (Chair), Peter Tarpgaard, Robert Johnson, Howard Hall, David Huntoon, Terry Flynn (Planning Board Liaison)

Absent: James Gedney

Guests: Peter Regan, Town Solicitor; Warren Hall, Town Engineer

This meeting was not videotaped to be viewed on the Town of Middletown, RI website. Gary Paquette made an audio recording on his personal recording device. Terry Flynn made a video recording on her personal recording device.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 by Chairman Gary Paquette.

The first agenda item was to discuss State Open Meeting Requirements and Town ordinances. Peter Regan, the Town Solicitor, provided a document to all members of the Commission which contained information he wanted the Commission to be aware of. This document included information from the Town Charter, Rhode Island General Laws, Town Code, Zoning Code, RI Open Meeting Law, and RI Code of Ethics in Government. Peter discussed many of the rules and laws in his handout. One of the significant items for the Commission pertained to the Open Meetings section. If members of the Commission do any business by email it is considered a violation of the open meeting laws. The Commission typically sends around minutes of the previous meeting for review and corrections. This process should be discontinued to be in compliance with the open meeting laws.

Gary Paquette asked if he could continue to send out his decision letter by email for review by the Commission. A timely response is often required for use by the Planning Board. Waiting a month for the next meeting to review the decision letter would significantly slow the process. Peter Regan was unsure and said he would discuss the matter with State officials.

A second agenda item was to discuss the Storm Water Zone 1 Checklist developed by the Town Engineer. A copy of this document was provided to all members of the Commission. This discussion was tabled.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:09 PM.