

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

July 15, 2009

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, July 15, at 6:30 pm at the Middletown Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.

Present : Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, John Pinto, Read Saunders and Ralph Thomas, Secretary.

Absent: Steve Fagan, Eileen Hatfield, Steve Ponte, and Andrew Leys.

Ex-Officio Members: Absent: Richard Cambra, Town Council; Dick Adams, Planning Board; Robert Johnson, Conservation Committee

Agenda

Review and approval of minutes: Suspended until received.

Old Business:

- **Kempenaar Valley Remediation. Remediation plans are being considered that would enable the property to be put to use.**

- **Boulevard Nurseries Property.**

- o **Planning continues by Aquidneck Island Land Trust for the visit of the Executive Director of The Intervale Center, Burlington, Vermont**

who will speak at the Town Hall at 6 pm, August 20 on community garden programs. During his visit he will be asked to visit the site and discuss its use as a town farm.

o The committee continues to support exploration of the desirability of establishing a nonprofit Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) charitable trust that could accept grants and donations to assist in the development of a town farm.

• **Park Maintenance.** The committee continues to be uncertain of how it may assist in ensuring the maintenance of attractive town parks that will be appreciated and used by residents. A concern is that unattractive and underutilized parks will result in questioning the need for new open space projects if current parks are not properly maintained and used.

New Business:

• **Administrator's Updates.** The town is close to signing a conservation easement on unspecified donated property that is connected to other town property.

Other Business:

• **Communication with the Town Council.** The committee noted that the repeated absence of the ex officio Town Council member from its meetings adversely impacted the committees' ability to communicate with the Town Council on matters within the mission of the

committee.

Town Council Action Items: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Ralph Thomas, Recording Secretary