

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

September 16, 2009

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 pm at the Middletown Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.

Present : Cheryl Boergesson, Kimberly Kestler, John Pinto, Read Saunders and Ralph Thomas, Secretary

Absent: Nicholas Coogan, Steve Fagan, Eileen Hatfield and Steve Ponte

Ex-Officio Members:

Present: Dick Adams, Planning Board

Absent: Richard Cambra, Town Council; Robert Johnson, Conservation Committee

Agenda

Review and approval of minutes: The minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting of the committee were approved as submitted.

Old Business:

- Recreation Master Plan. Dick Adams advised that the town had issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting bids for development**

of the plan. This plan would address land use within Middletown.

- **Comprehensive Community Plan.** The Comprehensive Community Plan is a long-range guide for the future development of the town. Dick Adams advised that the review of the existing Comprehensive Plan was continuing, with one objective being the inclusion of up-to-date, more readable graphics. The Recreation, Conservation and Open Space section of the plan is still being reviewed. Dick recommended the committee review this section of the plan.

- **Town Farm.** The chairman advised that Eileen Hatfield will assist in the development of Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) (nonprofit) status for the Boulevard property. A docket item for the Town Council addressing this matter will be prepared in coordination with the Planning Board.

- **Property Updates.** The committee continues to believe that stewardship of acquired land is important and requires the devotion of resources and personnel to maintain appropriately in order to be used and appreciated by residents. Advance development of maintenance needs and planning necessary work is essential. The following are property specific comments:

- o The committee commended those who planned the work at the West Main Road property. The demolition of the concrete structure and its replacement by a more attractive shed, the fencing to prevent parking on the grass and the new paved parking area greatly enhanced the appearance of the property.

- o The committee believes that the appearance and utility of Demery Park would be improved by the removal of the Belgian blocks and

regular mowing.

o Paradise Park needs more regular routine maintenance.

New Business:

- **Administrator's Updates.** The chairman will meet with Mr. Brown to determine if there is a time that committee members and he could visit town property together.
- **Community Gardens/Farms.** Portions of both the Boulevard and Kempenaar Valley properties have the potential for development of community gardens/farms. These could take a variety of forms to include private or communal plots, sharing of resources among users, etc. The chairman will meet with Mr. Brown to discuss what needs to be done to develop community gardens/farms.
- **Acquisition Discussion.** To occur at the October meeting.
- **Town Council Liaison Status.** The chairman reported that he had met with Mr. Cambra, the ex officio Town Council member, who indicated that he had been unable to attend committee meetings but that he followed committee developments by reading the agendas and minutes. The committee expressed its understanding that Mr. Cambra's schedule made attendance difficult, but, as it had at the August meeting, the committee observed that the Mr. Cambra's absence adversely impacted the committees' ability to communicate with the Town Council on matters within the mission of the committee. The committee expressed the hope that the scheduling problems could be resolved so that Mr. Cambra would be able to

attend future meetings.

Other Business:

- **Committee Roster.** The chairman asked the secretary to develop a roster of committee members to facilitate communication among the members.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Ralph Thomas, Recording Secretary