

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

November 18, 2009

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, November 18, at 5:00 pm at the Middletown Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.

Present: Cheryl Boergesson, Kimberly Kestler, John Pinto, Dick Barber, and Read Saunders

Absent: Steve Fagan, Nicholas Coogan, Eileen Hadfield, Steve Ponte, Ralph Thomas

Ex-officio Members:

Present: Richard Cambra, Town Council; Dick Adams, Planning Board; Robert Johnson, Conservation Committee

Agenda

Review and approval of minutes: The minutes of the October 21, 2009 meeting of the committee were approved as submitted. [The minutes of this meeting were approved as amended at the January 20, 2010 meeting.]

The property addressed at the October meeting under Other Business will be identified hence forth as Parcel 1.

Mr. Cambra and Mr. Hawes both stated that the Town Council appreciated the OS&F's evaluation efforts on a parcel of property at our Executive Session last month. The committee performed as desired and the assessment was considered most helpful.

Old Business:

- **Assessment of property value.**

- o **Shawn Brown, Town Administrator, was unavailable to provide information on Parcel 1 to the committee at this meeting.**

- **Comprehensive Community Plan.**

- o **Following Shawn Brown's recommendation to the committee to review the Recreation, Conservation and Open Space section of the current Comprehensive Plan and should provide recommendations to the Planning Board for use in the ongoing review of the plan, Ralph Thomas provided the committee members the link to the online plan. Mr. Hawes also passed out hard copies of the online version for review and Dick Adams stated he would make available an electronic copy of the newest revision for comparison.**

- **Recreation Master Plan.**

- o **Mr. Hawes is in receipt of the plan and will review and provide comments by week's end. It was recommended that in the future it would be advantageous to have more than one individual assigned to help with the review of such documents.**

- **Property Updates.**

- o **Mr. Hawes stated the deadline for capital improvement projects is**

approaching. There has been interest on the OS&F Committee (John Pinto, et al.) to look into developing a new baseball complex on the Boulevard Nursery property. It was thought that to stay within the \$25K threshold, we should look for support to start laying in infrastructure (sewage, parking, utilities).

- **Stewardship Program.**

- o The OS&F Committee will look into setting up subcommittees for better oversight of needs for existing and emerging parks.

- **Town Farm.**

- o Mr. Hawes stated that several members have expressed interest in the nonprofit community farm proposed effort and with Eileen Hadfield's assistance an off-site meeting at a day/time to be determined to will be set up.

New Business:

- **Dick Adams, Planning Board, Presentation.**

- o Mr. Adams presented an overview of the issues surrounding the property bordered by Bailey Ave and Sachuest Dr.

• Planning Board has requested the OS&F Committee to review and make recommendations. Mr. Cambra recommends the OS&F Committee make a site visit and also review the contractor's proposal for the approximate 7.5 acres of open space before making any recommendations.

• The Recording Secretary, Ralph Thomas will need to publish the date of the site visit.

- **Membership Status.** Dick Barber was accepted as the newest OS&F Committee member.
- **Election of Officers.** Ralph was not available to provide the results of his review of the bylaw procedures for election of officers.

Action Items to Forward to the Town Council:

- **The OS&F Committee recommends the removal of the billboards on East Main St.**

Other Business: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Read Saunders

For Ralph Thomas, Recording Secretary