

# **Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**November 17, 2010**

**A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 5 pm at the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Vice Chairman.**

**Member Present: Denise D'Amico, Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, John Pinto, Ralph Thomas and Anne Wilson**

**Members Absent: Dick Barker and Steve Ponte**

**Ex-officio Members:**

**Present: Dick Adams, Planning Board**

**Absent: Town Council Liaison; Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission**

## **Agenda**

**Review and approval of minutes: The minutes of the October 20, 2010 meeting of the committee were approved as drafted.**

**Executive Session: Not held as a result of the unavailability of Shawn Brown, Town Administrator**

**Old Business:**

- **Property Stewardship**

- o **The committee discussed the importance of maintaining parks in a condition that they could be enjoyed by Middletown residents. It was agreed that poorly maintained parks meant not only that they were not only failing to serve the purpose for which they were established, but would result in residents questioning proposals for new parks if existing parks could not be properly maintained.**

**In that regard, if a new park was being considered the committee would emphasize to the Town Council that there will be associated maintenance costs, and that Middletown had neither a dedicated horticulturist nor personnel dedicated to park maintenance. Basic park maintenance is, and will continue to be, performed by personnel of the Parks & Recreation and Public Works Department.**

- o **The establishment of a volunteer park steward program was considered, and, while the duties and responsibilities of park stewards would need to be developed, it was agreed that having a steward for each town park would be helpful.**

- o **The committee decided to conduct site visits to each park, with the first visit to Demery Memorial Park on December 4 at 10 am. Neighboring residents and others interested in the park would be invited to meet with the committee at that time.**

- **New member recruitment.** The committee currently has four vacancies. Current members were urged to speak to others about joining the committee.

#### **New Business:**

- **Meeting of Aquidneck Island Communities Open Space Committees.**  
The committee believed it would be useful for the open space committees of the three towns and the new town councils to meet with the Aquidneck Land Trust (ALT) to learn of open space initiatives and issues. Dick Adams indicated he would coordinate with the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission and the ALT to determine the feasibility of holding such a meeting in the February/March timeframe.
- **West Main Road and Coddington Highway Planning Project.** Mason advised there would be a meeting with the consultants working on the project at 1 pm, November 18 at the Town Hall. Interested committee members were invited to attend.
- **Gaudet School Wetland Update.** Mason updated the committee on the use of the wetlands by Middletown schools as an outdoor classroom. He indicated that the wetlands have been studied by URI students and faculty, who made recommendations for their future use. Committee members were urged to visit the area.

- **New Middletown Town Council Liaison.** The newly elected Town Council had yet to make committee liaison assignments. When a liaison was assigned, it would provide the committee the opportunity to brief him/her on the committee's roles and missions.
- **Election of officers.** Ralph indicated he had another year to serve in his term as Recording Secretary. Election of a new chairman will occur at the January 2011 meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm. The next meeting of the committee will be at 10 pm on Saturday, December 4 at Demery Memorial Park. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee will be at 5 pm in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station.

**Ralph Thomas**  
**Recording Secretary**