

## **Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**December 15, 2010**

**A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, December 15, 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: Anne Baptista, Denise D'Amico, Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, John Pinto, and Ralph Thomas**

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

**Ex-officio Members:**

**Present: Dick Adams, Planning Board, Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission**

**Absent: Bruce Long, Town Council Liaison [Notified the acting Chairman in advance that he would be out of town and unable to attend]**

### **Agenda**

**Review and approval of minutes: The minutes of the November 17 and December 4 meetings of the committee were approved as amended.**

**Executive Session: Not held as a result of the unavailability of Shawn**

## **Brown, Town Administrator**

**Meeting with Tim Shaw, Recreation Director, Town of Middletown. Tim indicated plans were still being developed for Middletown's support of Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 24). In past years, this had taken the form of a cleanup of a specific area(s) on a Saturday near in time to the days on which Earth Day and Arbor Day were celebrated. The committee was asked to advise him of specific recommended projects; in turn the committee asked him to consider how it could support his efforts. Specific areas discussed included advertising, support from schools and procuring of supplies needed in the cleanup. Tim also noted that an Eco-Depot disposal day is scheduled for April 16 at Second Beach and that consideration is being given to incorporating it as part of the celebration of Earth and Arbor Days.**

### **Old Business:**

- Property Stewardship. The establishment of a volunteer park steward program, which had considered at the November meeting was discussed. Mason and Ralph volunteered to prepare a draft document outlining the responsibilities of a park steward for consideration at the January meeting. The document will need to be presented to the Town Council for approval.**

**A resident of the Demery Memorial Park neighborhood was present.**

**He indicated he would strongly consider volunteering as the Demery park steward once the responsibilities of the position were approved.**

- Farmer's Market. Mason indicated that construction of a building in Kempenaar Valley to house a winter farmers market was being considered. It was decided to continue the meeting at Linden Park discussed under New Business at Kempenaar Valley to familiarize members with the property generally, and specifically with the area where the building would be located.**
- Meeting of Aquidneck Island Communities Open Space Committees. Mason asked that committee members provide him input on items that could be addressed at such a meeting. Dick Adams will continue to liaison with the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission and the Aquidneck Land Trust to determine the feasibility of holding such a meeting and the possible agenda.**
- Demery Memorial Park Site Visit. The site visit was considered to be very successful, with a good turnout of neighboring residents.**
- Recruitment of New Members. Mason agreed to develop a draft handout outlining the committee's mission and functions that could be provided to those considering becoming a member.**
- New Business:**

• **Site Visits to Other Middletown Parks.** Based on the success of the site visit to Demery Memorial Park on December 4, it was decided to conduct a site visit to Linden Park on January 8, 2011 at 10 am. Neighboring residents and others interested in the park would be invited to meet with the committee at that time. Mason will coordinate with Tim Shaw on the mailing of notices to neighboring residents.

• **Proposed Agenda Items for January Meeting.**

o **Election of Chairman**

o **Site Visits to Other Middletown Parks**

o **Community Gardening/Farming**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm. The next meeting of the committee will be at 10 pm on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at Linden Park. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee will be at 5 pm, January 19 in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station.

**Ralph Thomas**

**Recording Secretary**