

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

March 5, 2011

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee was to take place on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 10 a.m. at Oliphant Playground at the intersection of Oliphant Lane and West Main Road. Because a quorum was not present, the individual committee members received comments from neighboring residents and made personal observations of playground conditions. No action was taken as a committee.

Members Present: Cheryl Boergesson, Mason Hawes, Maryalice Huggins, Christin Lambiase and Ralph Thomas

Members Absent: Anne Baptista, Dick Barker, Nicholas Coogan, John Pinto, and Steve Ponte

Ex-officio Members:

Present: Bruce Long, Town Council Liaison; Dick Adams, Planning Board

Absent: Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission

Also Present: Tim Shaw, Recreation Director, Town of Middletown

The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize committee members with Oliphant Playground and to receive comments with regard to the playground's condition and any suggestions for changes to the current playground plan from neighboring residents and others interested in the park.

In general, neighboring residents were pleased with the parks condition, however, a number of deficiencies were noted as follows:

- The trees along the north fence have largely been killed by the bittersweet. The trees, bittersweet and undergrowth need to be removed. The fence itself is in poor condition and needs to be removed.**
- The two ball fields are used for T-ball. The field in the northeast corner of the needs to be leveled. It currently slopes toward home plate. The backstops of both fields are rusty and in need of repair.**
- The west side fence (which parallels West Main Road) needs to be repaired. For esthetic reasons, it should eventually be replaced by a split rail fence.**
- The stone fence surrounding portions of the playground are in need of repair.**
- There are no trees or structures providing shade in the playground.**
- Although the playground equipment is in good repair, a resident commented that much of it was too large for small children. Others commented that the equipment needed to be supplemented by such things as a merry-go-round, a sand digger backhoe, and spring loaded jeep.**
- The absence of an asphalted area within the playground as is found, for example, in Linden Park.**

The committee members noted that the east boundary of the

playground is uncertain. There is a considerable brush covered area between the maintained area and the first residence on Oliphant Lane. If that is town property, the playground could be substantially expanded.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee will be at 5 p.m., March 16 in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station.

Ralph Thomas

Recording Secretary