

# **Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**February 15, 2012**

**A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 5 p.m. in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.**

**Member Present: Anne Baptista, Cheryl Boergesson, Ed Sisk and Ralph Thomas**

**Members Absent: Nicholas Coogan, Christian Lambiase, John Pinto and Austin Pendergast**

**Ex-officio Members:**

**Present: Bruce Long, Town Council Liaison; Dick Adams, Planning Board; Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission**

**Absent: None**

**Town Officials: Tim Shaw, Recreation Director**

**Others Present: None**

## **Agenda**

**Roll Call: The roll was called with attendance as indicated above.**

**Review and Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 18 and 28, 2012 committee meetings were reviewed and approved as drafted.**

## **Old Business:**

- **Review Results of the Parks Project Prioritization.** Tim Shaw indicated that the town had begun to receive estimates of the costs for remediating the park deficiencies and maintenance issues and the park enhancement projects identified during the December meeting. He indicated that no decisions had been made on which projects would be funded, except for repair of the rock wall at Dunlap Wheeler Park. He also noted that the benches at Dunlap Wheeler and Demery Parks were scheduled to be sanded and stained this year.

The committee noted that there were a number of natural stone walls that needed restoration and that the estimated restoration costs were significant. Ralph volunteered to determine whether there were foundations and other grant making agencies that made grants for stone wall restorations and provide the results of his research at the March meeting.

Ed Sisk noted that one of the problems at Demery Park were the vines that had grown into the trees. Robert Johnson indicated he would visit the park and determine whether there was a method by which the vines could be removed.

The committee also noted that the north fence line of Oliphant Park had not yet been cleared of the dead trees, bittersweet and

**underbrush as had been recommended following its March 15, 2011 visit to the park. Tim Shaw indicated that he believed that was scheduled to occur, but would check to confirm that.**

**The committee continued to state its concern with the lack of access to Linden Park from the east and suggested that the town administration determine whether a means of access could be developed through the former MacDonald and current IHOP properties.**

**Tim Shaw indicated that he would continue to provide the committee estimates for remediation and enhancement projects as those were received.**

- Park Procedures and Protocol Workshop. The committee reviewed draft Park Survey and Work Day Checklist documents for use by park stewards prepared by Anne Baptista. A limited number of changes were recommended. Anne will incorporate those changes and provide the revised documents to the committee during the March meeting. A draft questionnaire to be completed by park users will also be reviewed at that meeting.**

- Community Garden on Library Grounds. No information beyond that appearing in previous committee minutes was available.**

- Site Visit to Berkeley-Peckham School. The committee had noted that the backstop required repair during its January 28 site visit. Tim Shaw indicated the repairs to the backstop were going to be made in the near-term.**

- **Site Visit to Purgatory Chasm.** Committee members were reminded that the site visit was scheduled for February 25 at 10 a.m.
- **Properties Updates.** None.

#### **New Business:**

- **Site Visit to Other Middletown Parks.** The committee approved a site visit to the West Main Recreation Complex and to the Town Library for a date to be determined. Mason Hawes will coordinate a time and date with the coordinator of the community garden being developed on the library grounds.
- **Proposed Agenda Items for March 21 Meeting.**
  - o **Park Procedures and Protocol Workshop**
  - o **Community Garden on Library Grounds**
  - o **Site Visit to West Main Recreation Complex and Town Library**
  - o **Site Visit to Purgatory Chasm**
  - o **Identification of Parks Requiring Park Stewards**
  - o **Properties Updates**
  - o **Proposed Agenda Items for April Meeting**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next meeting of the committee will be at Purgatory Chasm at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 25. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee will be at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station.

**Ralph Thomas**

**Recording Secretary**