

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

August 15, 2012

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the conference room of the Middletown Library, 700 West Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.

Member Present: Anne Baptista, Cheryl Boergesson, and Ralph Thomas

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

Ex-officio Members:

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

Absent: Bruce Long, Town Council Liaison (Excused)

Town Officials: Edward Silveira, Town Council; Tim Shaw, Recreation Director

Others Present: Barbara Gifford, Park Steward, Linden Park; George Barcus; Theresa Coish; Joan Simmons; Nancy Corkery; Craig Gaspar

Note: In the absence of a quorum, there was an informal discussion of the agenda items but no formal action taken. The notes of that discussion follow.

Agenda

Old Business:

- **Community Garden on Library Grounds.** Prior to the meeting the members had the opportunity to view the individual plots. During the meeting, Theresa Coish, the Library Director, briefed the committee on the background of the garden and the experience to date in this its first year. She indicated that it had been a worthwhile experience for all participants and that the individual plots were all being well maintained. She indicated that five workshops on various gardening issues had been held during the spring and summer, and that more were planned. She indicated that there was insufficient water storage on site but that various alternatives to increase storage capacity were being studied. She advised that individuals who had plots could have the same plots in 2013, if desired, and that expansion of the number of beds was being considered.
- **Standards for Parks: Benches, Signage, Bicycle Racks, Etc..** Tim Shaw provided examples of possible benches, signs, trash cans and bicycle racks. He indicated he would provide prices of each at a future meeting. Tim indicated he would provide the committee the Town policy with regard to memorial gifts.
- **Properties Updates.** Tim Shaw advised that the barbeque grills and bicycle racks at Howland Park had not yet been installed but that he anticipated that would occur in the near future.
- **Purgatory Chasm Walkway/Scenic Vista Update.** Mason advised that the issue was complicated by property ownership issues. He

indicated that State Senator Lou DiPalma and State Representative Dan Reilly were continuing to pursue the matter and it was hoped that further information would be available within 30 days. He noted that if Middletown was required to provide the funding for the walkway and vegetation clearing none was available this year.

Old Business:

- **Beach Facility Advisory Committee Representative.** Nick Coogan and Austin Pendergast each asked to be considered. After discussion, it was agreed that Nick Coogan would be the representative.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next meeting will be a 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room at the Middletown Police Station, 350 West Main Road, Middletown.