

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

May 21, 2014

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, April 16, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, Middletown, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman

Member Present:, Nicholas Coogan, David Kirchner, Mike Richards, and Ralph Thomas

Members Absent: Austin Prendergast, Cheryl Boergesson, and Ed Sisk

Ex-officio Members:

Present: Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission; Matt Sullivan, Planning Board Liaison

Town Officials: Absent: Dick Adams, Town Council Liaison; Will Cronin, Town Representative (Both attending a hearing on the Town budget)

Others Present: George Barcus

Agenda

The minutes of the March 19 and April 16 meetings were reviewed and, after amendment, approved.

Old Business:

- **Town Memorial Policy.** Dick Adams will be asked to follow through with Shawn Brown and Maureen Mauer as to the status of the draft revision of the Policy.
- **Properties Updates.**
 - o **Planning for Boulevard/Tibbets Recreation Facility.** Mike Richards provided an update on the Steering Committee's work. The draft design provides for multi-use facility that includes fields for lacrosse and baseball, a fieldhouse, parking lot, two concession stands and a walking trail around the perimeter. The Committee's consultant has identified the grading and other work that needs to be done. The desire is that the entrance to the facility be near the intersection of East Main Road and Oliphant using the existing stoplight. The estimated cost is \$5.75 million, exclusive of the fieldhouse. The plan provides that it would be accomplished in phases; still to be decided is the order of the phasing. The Committee intends to meet once more to fine tune the draft plan, then hold public meetings before forwarding it to the Town Council.
 - o **The Valley Trails.** No updates.
 - o **Other Parks.** No updates.
- **Purgatory Walkway Update.** Awaiting an update from Dick Adams on his efforts to have the Town Council as a priority issue for resolution.
- **Park Visits.** It was decided that the regularly scheduled June meeting would be held at Howland Park instead of the Community

Room at the Police Station.

• **Earth Day.** The Middletown Library held a variety of events planned for families, including an information fair on Friday, April 25, on gardening, which included soil testing. Coordinators from 4-H and Clean Ocean Access spoke about their programs and distributed information. Theresa Coish, the Library Director, was commended for what were very successful events.

In addition to the library events, the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and the Town of Middletown hosted a household hazardous waste and an e-waste recycling Depot collection on April 20 and on April 19 the Town had a Bulk Waste Amnesty Day open to residents participating in the PAYT program.

• **Workshop on Revisions to the Open Space and Recreation Acquisition Policy Document.** Various suggestions for revisions were discussed. Ralph indicated he would prepare a new draft document for review to serve as a basis for further discussions at the June meeting.

New Business:

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

o **Town Memorial Policy Update**

o **Properties Updates**

 **Tibbets/Boulevard Steering Committee**

 **The Valley Trails**

 **Other Parks.**

- o Purgatory Walkway Update**
- o Park Visits**
- o Revisions to the Open Space and Recreation Policy Document**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at 5:30 PM at Howland Park.

Ralph Thomas

Recording Secretary