

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

January 21, 2015

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, January 21, at 5:30 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: Nicholas Coogan, Mark Donahue, Mason Hawes, David Kirchner, Mike Richards and Ralph Thomas

Members Absent: Cheryl Boergesson, Ian Clemmey and Austin Prendergast

Ex-officio Members:

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

Town Officials: Absent: Will Cronin (due to scheduling conflict)

Others Present: George Barcus and Jason Evans (observers)

Agenda

Review of Minutes:

The minutes of the December 27 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- **Properties Updates.**

- o **Report of Boulevard/Tibbets Recreation Facility Steering Committee.** Although the final report of the Steering Committee had been approved, the Committee's consultant was still finalizing the report to present to the Town Administrator. The date when it would be presented by the Town Administrator to the Town Council for review has not been determined.

- o **The Valley Trails.** Planning for the location of the trails in the Valley has been completed. The next step is to submit a request to the Department of Environmental Management for approval of construction of the trails, a process that could take up to six months. The hope is that work can begin in late spring and that trees to beautify the Valley can be planted at that time. The tree plan is for the planting of shorter trees at the higher elevations and taller trees at the lower elevations. The detailed planting plan is still being developed.

- o **Other Parks.** No updates.

- **Review Planning Department's Shoreline Park Master Plan.** Finalizing and submitting the plan has been delayed to later in the year. Review of the plan was tabled and deferred until action on it is needed.

- **Capital Project Listing.** Due to Will Cronin's absence action on this item was deferred to the February meeting.

New Business:

- **Aquidneck Land Trust Annual Meeting.** Committee members were reminded that ALT's annual meeting would be held on February 5, that all were invited, that reservations were required and those should be made as soon as possible.

- **Proposed Agenda Items for February Meeting.**

- o **Properties Updates**

- Tibbets/Boulevard Steering Committee

- The Valley Trails

- o **Review Capital Project Listing**

- o **Earth Day**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown, Rhode Island.

Ralph Thomas

Recording Secretary