

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

May 18, 2016

A meeting of the Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee convened on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Fire Department, in Middletown, R.I. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman

Member Present: Mark Donahue, Mason Hawes, Nick Coogan, David Kirchner,

Thomas Welch, Jason Evans, Sara Poirier, Cheryl Boergesson

Allan Gray

Members Absent: Michael Richards, Will Cronin, Rocky Kempenaar

Ex-officio Members: Matt Sullivan, Planning Board Liaison, Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission Liaison

Town Officials: Present:

Town Council Liaison:

The April minutes were corrected and then accepted. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM.

Agenda

Old Business:

Properties Updates:

- 1. There will be no grant from the Land Trust for benches.**
- 2. The grant requests for the Drive-In site have been submitted. They may not be realized until autumn. Fields will probably need to be added. Salve Regina University is still interested in this site.**
- 3. Trail benches have been ordered and will be put in when they arrive.**
- 4. Subcommittee Updates**
 - a. The dugout work at the Aquidneck School field has been completed.**
 - b. It has been noted that volunteer help on the fields is not always done correctly. Training should be conducted by the athletic leagues for their volunteers. This training could be called “Field Maintenance Training Sessions “.**
- 5. The Gaudet outdoor classroom has been updated.**
- 6. BRAC is moving closer, hopefully within one year.**

New Business:

- 1. Revised Property Scoring Document: when considering properties for acquisition / easement we need to add**
 - a. “Is the property encumbered with an easement? “**
 - b. Fee Title**
 - c. We need to compare the old scoring system with the new proposed**

system and with The Comprehensive Plan.

2. Any changes deemed appropriate by the OS&F committee will need to be brought to the Town Council for their approval.

3. Regarding any possible future acquisition the question has been raised as to whether something may be coming available with this property. It is noted that the property is relatively flat, which would lend itself to active recreation. In addition this area does contain wetlands.

4. Site Visits

a. Demery Park: Grass is being dumped along the stone walls. Also noted is that the limited parking at this site is by design.

b. Paradise Valley Park: A lot of people are using this park, which is good. There seem to be a good number of benches, trees may be planted in the future, and the walking paths may be expanded. The gate that at one time was electric is no longer working. The question was raised as to whether the gate should be repaired or just removed.

Any changes made must have the blessing of the Middletown Historical Society.

c. The land going down Brown's Lane, the Golf Course and the Cemetery are on the Town's Open Space website. This will be discussed with Ron.

d. Dunlop Wheeler: No updates

e. Linden Park: The Park is looking good, although it seems to be underutilized. It would be nice to get some ideas as to how this park can be better utilized. Some trash cans would be helpful and a fence

to separate the playing area from the parking lot would be a good idea. A suggestion may be made to the Tree Commission to look into the planting of some trees in the back part of the school.

f. Howland Park: The rink is being repaired, and other than that the park does not seem to need much help.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 5:30.

Nicholas Coogan

Recording Secretary