

# **Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**October 19, 2016**

**A meeting of the Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee convened on Wednesday, October 19 2016, at 4:30 p.m. in the parking area for the Valley Trails, 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**

**Members Absent: Ian Clemmey, Rocky Kempenaar, Cheryl Boergesson, Allan Gray**

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

**Town Officials: Present: Will Cronin**

**Town Council Liaison:**

**The meeting was called to order at 4:34 PM.**

## **Agenda**

**Old Business:**

## **Properties Updates:**

**1. A walking tour of part of the Valley Trails was conducted by the Committee. This was followed by a tour of the skating area at Howland Park. The overall impression was that the Town had done an excellent job creating the trails. At the time of the tour there were two entrance areas on High Street awaiting creation of stairs to access the trails from the street. Will Cronin pointed out that there were several large boulders to be placed on either side of the trails entrance. There was a discussion for future tree planting as well as adding benches, which would need to be approved by DEM. Eventually color coded trails signs will be posted as well as a posting of rules for trail use.**

**2. The skating area at Howland Park has been resurfaced.**

## **NCRS/DEM Best Practices**

**1. A representative from NCRS/DEM will review Middletown's Best practice policies for properties, including farm land.**

## **Committee/Workshops Updates**

**1. Sara Poirier reported on the Agricultural Overlay meeting and gave a Storm Water Update**

**a. The Agricultural Overlay will help to develop a plan to decide what**

can or cannot be done on farmland in Middletown.

b. In regards to the Storm Water Update, the DEM gave a presentation the previous week for Middletown, Newport, and the Land Trust as to what is being done to address storm water runoff. The DEM wants to release the values for Total Daily Maximum Loads, or TDML, for storm water runoff contaminants. These are strictly recommendations and are not enforceable. The idea is to make these levels known and see if the town can meet them. The upper Maidford River is one of the areas of concern in regards to storm water runoff.

c. There will be a new Storm Water Utility issue on the ballot for the upcoming election. In addition structural mitigations have been identified using BMPs concerning this issue.

#### **Encroachment Update**

1. It has been noted that there are instances of cutting back of vegetation on Town land by neighbors whose property abuts Town Land. In some instances areas are being mowed because it has been done in the past and has been allowed to continue. Town officials will send letters to the residents and request that they stop mowing Town land.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Property Scoring Document:** The Aquidneck Island Land Trust has approached Middletown to inquire as to whether the Town would be willing to contribute \$ 300,000.00 towards the acquisition of Spruce

**Acres. This Committee will score the property and forward a recommendation to Shawn.**

**2. Strategic Planning: Shawn has informed all Town committees that they must develop a long-term strategic plan. A template may be developed.**

**3. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP): It appears there will be no grant coming from DEM for development of the Drive-In property. Funds may be available from the Town. An RFP is going out for infrastructure work at this site.**

**Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00PM. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 5:00.**

**Nicholas Coogan**

**Recording Secretary**