

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

September 25, 2017

A meeting of the Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee convened on Wednesday, September 25, 2017, at 5:30 P.M. at the Fire Department in Middletown, R.I. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.

Member Present: Mason Hawes, Nick Coogan, David Kirchner, Tom Welch

Sara Poirier, Cheryl Boergesson, Allan Gray

Members Absent: Mark Donahue, Jason Evans

Ex-officio Members: Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission Liaison

Town Officials: Present: Will Cronin

Town Council Liaison: Absent: Antone Viveiros (Absent)

Guest: Tom O'Loughlin

It was established that enough members were present for a quorum. At 5:34 PM the meeting was called to order. The minutes from the July 2017 meeting were reviewed, a motion was made that they be

accepted.

It was noted that Matt Sullivan will be leaving the Planning Board

Agenda

Old Business:

Property Updates:

1. A letter to the editor appeared in the Newport Daily News stating there is no parking available at the Valley Park. This is incorrect. In addition there was another letter inquiring about spraying in the Valley for weed control.

Dog Regulations:

1. The question was raised concerning dog control in Middletown's open spaces. The ALT believes this is an issue worth addressing. Scott Wheeler from Newport is the individual who helped in the past. He may be someone that we should speak with. There is a need to identify problems and contact the stakeholders. Sara will contact the Middletown Dog Officer.

User Group Survey:

1. Will mentioned that Fall Lacrosse is looking for more fields. They

were reminded of the user group survey they should have completed.

Grant Possibilities:

1. Grant requests are due by October 27th for \$400,000 that is available for property acquisition. Currently there are no particular pieces of land that are of interest. There are ongoing discussions concerning acquiring a portion of The Old Farm property.

Land Management Practices:

1. The Town currently uses home owner grade Round Up for weed control on Town property, however a completely organic approach is preferred. This would be a problem if corn was being raised on the land. A solution would to eliminate the growing of corn on Town property, and instead a permanent vegetative cover would be planted. This will be recommended to the Town Council, although this type of cover requires more applications and is labor intensive. The feeling of the Committee is that an ordinance for nutrient, fertilizer, and pest control should be created by the Town Council.

Fall Cleanup:

1. The baseball group cleaned the Oliphant and Aquidneck fields.

New Business:

1. Shawn Brown will be attending the October meeting to discuss strategic planning.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 18, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

Nicholas Coogan

Recording Secretary