

# **Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**October 18, 2017**

**A meeting of the Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee convened on Wednesday, October 18, 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: Jason Evans,**

**Ex-officio Members: Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission Liaison**

**Town Officials: Present: Will Cronin, Shawn Brown**

**Town Council Liaison: Absent: Antone Viveiros (Absent)**

**It was established that enough members were present for a quorum. At 5:35 PM the meeting was called to order. The minutes from the September 2017 meeting were deferred.**

# **Agenda**

## **Old Business:**

### **Property Updates:**

**1. A Town Park tour was conducted by Will Cronin and any outstanding project requests need to be submitted. There is a request for a black chain link fence at Linden Park. It was noted that the Howland Property looks good and that there are plans to clean up the Paradise Park and trails.**

**2 A plan will be made public to put in a gas station, car wash, and doughnut shop at the property at the corner of East Main Road and Wyatt.**

**3 Last years grant request for the Drive-In property was not successful. The feeling is that this was because the School Department was included as a partner on the request. A new request for two fields on this property will be submitted but will not include the School Department.**

**4 The Town will be partnering with the Navy to buy the majority of the Old Farm Property.**

**5 Sara will be forming an ad-hoc committee to consider the issue of dogs on Town property.**

### **User Group Survey:**

**1. Girls' Lacrosse returned their survey, although we are still waiting to hear from MHS. Once all the surveys have been returned we will summarize the data.**

### **Grant Possibilities:**

**1. Old Farm, Drive-In and a wall around the Dunlop-Wheeler Park.**

### **Land Management Practices:**

**1. Addressing pesticide management, which falls under Federal guidelines. The Town would like to begin implementing restrictions on the use of pesticides on Town property first. This should include an educational program to demonstrate why this is desirable, followed by a Town ordinance. Shawn informed us that the ordinance must come from the Town Council and it must specify what can and**

cannot be used. There will need to be a meeting with soccer, Babe Ruth and public works to see what they are using on their fields. The Town will also need full disclosure on town land being leased to private farms to learn what they are using.

**New Business:**

### **Strategic Planning**

1. Shawn Brown suggested that due to the increased interest in how our open spaces are utilized. A long-range plan would be beneficial. He recommended working with a consultant to develop a plan which would then be forwarded to the Town Council.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss a motion was made to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday November 15, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

**Nicholas Coogan**

**Recording Secretary**