

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

November 15, 2017

A meeting of the Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee convened on Wednesday, November 15, 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, Janet Bolender

Sara Poirier, Allan Gray

Members Absent: Jason Evans, Tom Welch, Cheryl Boergesson, Mark Donahue

Ex-officio Members: Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission Liaison

Town Officials: Present: Will Cronin,

Town Council Liaison: Absent: Antone Viveiros (Absent)

It was established that enough members were present for a quorum. At 5:38 PM the meeting was called to order. The minutes from the September and October 2017 were reviewed. A motion was made to accept those pending corrections. This committee welcomed two new

members, John Nelson and Janet Bolender.

Agenda

Old Business:

Property Updates:

1. The Town is considering the idea of providing dog waste stations possibly at the Valley parking lot and Paradise Park. We will speak with a representative from Newport to see where they put their receptacles. Portsmouth has put theirs at The Glen.

2. Bob Johnson informed the committee that \$50,000 have been approved for Phase 2 of the Valley tree planting project. This will be ornamental trees and is planned for the spring of 2018.

3. Sara Poirier will be heading the dog ad hoc committee. She hopes to have the first meeting in December. They will look to see what role the Animal Control Officer can play in the dog waste program. Should dog owners be ticketed for failure to pick up their dog waste?

We will need to look at the Town's rules.

User Group Survey:

- 1. It was suggested that civic appropriation funding should be tied to completion of the user survey.**

Grant Possibilities:

- 1. \$300,000 storm water abatement for Bailey's Brook and Maidford River**

2. \$36,600 for financing to support future investment in storm water infrastructure, operations, and maintenance.

3. \$272,000 from the Nature Conservancy for Maidford River restoration.

4. \$47,500 for technical assistance and outreach targeting agricultural properties.

New Business:

Prioritizing Future Grant Possibilities

1. The Drive -In property in in the works

2. Part of Old Farm is to be turned over to the town. It will be purchased by the federal government and then turned over the Town. There are many possible uses for this property that will be determined at a future time.

3. Future grant possibilities include a proposed trail system that links the Valley, Turner Road, Gaudet Middle School, MHS, and the police station. This would start at the Sakonnet Greenway.

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 January 17, 2018 at 5:30 PM.

Nicholas Coogan

Recording Secretary