

Middletown Open Space & Field Committee

Minutes of Meeting

January 18, 2018

A meeting of the Middletown open Space & Fields Committee convened on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, at 1730hrs at the Fire Department in Middletown, RI. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.

Members Present: Cheryl Boergesson, Janet Bolender, Nick Coogan, Jason Evans, Mason Hawes, David Kirchner, Tom Welch

Members Absent: Allen Gray, John Nelson, Sara Poirier

Town Officials present: Will Cronin

Town Council Liaison absent: Antone Viveiros

Sufficient members were present for a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 1736hrs. The December minutes were reviewed, edited and a motion was unanimously passed to accept the amended minutes.

Mason gave some overview meeting procedures. The meeting agenda must be posted to the Secretary of State's website 48hrs prior to the start time of the meeting. Minutes must also be posted to the website which also allows officers of the board to amend them. Nick and Tom will meet with Wendy Marshall to get passwords to the site.

Agenda

Old Business:

Property Updates:

- 1. Valley: (Will) Phase 2 planting is wrapping up. Rita (Planning Dept) is working on the type and locations of benches which probably will have backs.**
- 2. Drive In: Still waiting on grant approval. Mason will check in with Ron**
- 3. Old Farm: (Will) Still waiting for Navy to finalize purchase. Potentially the Kirokedies will retain the area along W Main Rd and the Navy would purchase the acreage on the west side of the parcel. A potential exists for the Town to partner with the Navy to build fields and/or other recreational facilities.**
- 4. Shoreline Park: (Will) The project has been parked for a year due to environmental concerns – most likely residues from the adjacent tank farm and firefighting school.**

Dog Ad Hoc Committee:

(Mason) Sara has suspended work on the committee as she has not heard back from MPD or dog officer for 2 months. Mason asked Will to help the situation along.

User Group Survey:

The Committee compared the information requested between the User Survey and Land Management Group as well as stakeholders in each group. It was determined the best course of action would be to include all sports groups that apply for Civic Support monies and are interested in using town fields. The completed survey would be

required to process all requests. Will said the survey would be sent out in the beginning of February.

Grant Update:

No new information was available.

Land Management Practices:

The Committee suggested this group should include town property leasers (Louis Escobar, Newport Vineyards, Hoogendorn Nurseries), sports groups that may have their own fertilizer programs on town fields (MYSC, MLL), the Middletown School Department, and Parks & Rec. Mason said Maureen will set up the meeting. Similar to making the user survey a requirement for civic support monies, disclosure of applied pesticides would be a requirement to renew a lease.

Strategic Planning:

(Mason) The town will provide training for all boards and committees to include yearly and 5-year planning objectives. Due to the start of the budget process, Shawn has put the training on hold.

New Business

The committee discussed new business suggestions for upcoming meetings. Solidifying the property grading process and determining priorities for the new year were front runners.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was voted on and passed at 1830hrs.

Submitted by T. Welch