

Middletown Open Space & Field Committee

Minutes of Meeting

April 18, 2018

A meeting of the Middletown open Space & Fields Committee convened on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at 1730hrs at the Fire Department in Middletown, RI. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.

Members Present: Jason Evans, Allan Gray, Mason Hawes, David Kirchner, Stephen Luces, Sara Poirier, Tom Welch

Members Absent: Cheryl Boergesson, Janet Bolender, Nick Coogan, John Nelson

Town Officials present: Will Cronin

Conservation Commission Liaison present: Bob Johnson

Planning Board Liaison present: Bill Nash

Town Council Liaison absent: Antone Viveiros

Sufficient members were present for a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 1739hrs. The January minutes were reviewed, edited and a motion was unanimously passed to accept the amended minutes.

Agenda

Old Business:

Property Updates:

1. Valley: (Will) Phase 2 planting is complete. Boulevard Nurseries

was awarded the bids for fall and spring planting. Will is working on signage. There will be a cleanup effort this Sunday on the property at 1000hrs. Discussion continued regarding possible access for foot traffic from Valley Road (along a right of way on the south side of MPD , the sewer right of way on the east side of Bailey's Brook and the access road to Kempenaar's Clambake Club.

2. Will reported the Town has installed dog waste bag dispensers (3) in the Valley and (1) at Paradise Park. There are no trash barrels at the Valley where the policy remains carry in carry out. There is one trash barrel at Paradise Park

3. No other new information was available on other properties.

Dog Ad Hoc Committee:

(Sara) Sgt McGregor who is new to the position of Dog Officer Supervisor was able to shed some light on the current situation from the standpoint of MPD. They do not receive any complaints regarding dog waste and there is no active patrol, though they will respond if an incident is brought to their attention. He was not sure but believes there is a fine on the books of \$50 for dog waste infractions.

Discussion ideas: new annual dog license ordinance which would include an information page describing responsible ownership, existing fines and the problematic issue of dog waste in public places.

(Sara) The next step for the committee is to reach out to stakeholders

to come up with recommendations that would be forwarded to this committee for discussion, seek input from MPD and ultimately have the finished product delivered to the council for consideration and possible ordinance changes and/or creation.

User Group Survey:

(Will) Only a fraction of the user groups asks for civic appropriations, therefore, it would not be useful to make the completion of the survey a prerequisite to receive funding

Discussion: Why was the batting cage netting and frame damaged over the winter – possibly the poles were not set deep enough – who is responsible to oversee these projects when town monies fund equipment etc. for user groups? How do we make sure projects are built properly and that necessary maintenance is performed?

Alan agreed to request from Little League a check list to give to the town for things like: end of the season maintenance and start up/break down procedures to insure all tasks are completed.

Discussion: who should be responsible for larger projects i.e. aeration?

Grant Update:

No new information was available.

Land Acquisitions:

Still in a holding pattern.

Town Donation Policy:

(Mason) The policy has been stalled as the town attempts to create a standard policy for all donations. Will gave an example of a memorial bench – the town would decide on one type of bench, would set guidelines for where it could be located, set a useful life, convey the understanding that the town would not be responsible for its replacement, etc.

New Business

None discussed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was voted on and passed at 1851hrs.

Submitted by T. Welch