

Middletown Open Space & Field Committee

Minutes of Meeting

June 20, 2018

A meeting of the Middletown open Space & Fields Committee convened on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 1735hrs 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, Mason Hawes, David Kirchner, Stephen Luces, Tom Welch

Members Absent: Jason Evans, Allen Gray, John Nelson, Sara Poirier

Town Officials present: Will Cronin

Town Council Liaison present: Rick Lombardi

absent: Antone Viveiros

Committee/Board Liaison present:

Absent: Bob Johnson (Conservation)

Bill Nash (Planning)

Sufficient members were present for a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 1735hrs. The May minutes were incomplete and will be reviewed in July.

Agenda

Old Business:

Property Updates: iytes

1. Shoreline: (Rick) Transfer of the property is still on, sign off

hopefully in a year. DEM will still be in charge – they are currently doing a project across the bay. The scope will be similar to Brenton Point: passive recreation – walking paths, kites, etc.

(discussion) McCalister Point was a superfund site. Naval ship maintenance in the area most likely included paint scraping. Old dump remediation was completed but no knowledge of water cleanup. Should the town request some assurance from the state regarding environment hazards at the park site?

2. Old Farm: (Rick) The lower portion of the property is wet and therefore undevelopable. The navy likes to maintain a buffer zone between their property lines and civilian lands. Gov't has funding available for this purpose and has expressed interest in the project more than once.

- Jack Reed has suggested the funding agency hasn't done anything locally and previous proposals have been shot down. He feels it should be our turn.

- The project is still up in the air in many respects

- The town needs to pass a mixed-use ordinance; there is no timeline yet

- Town does want open space passive recreation on the property

3. Drive-in (Mason) The council approved \$300,000 without hesitation to support the grant to develop the drive-in for multiuse sports fields. The next step is an RFP. An itemized list will include bids broken down by line item in case they have to back off something.

- (Rick) there is a short list of neighbor concerns all of which the town

can work with.

Dog Ad Hoc Committee:

No discussion

Land Acquisition Policy:

(Mason) The policy is out of date. Our scoring sheet will be forwarded to Ron (Wolanski) for input from the Planning Dept then we will tweak. This is down the road away.

Land Management Practices:

(Mason) This deals with Town owned property and leases. We want to meet with current leases (Newport Vineyard, Hoogendorn Nurseries, Farmers) and land users (public works, sports groups) to determine what chemicals and associated maintenance practices are currently being used. SJB wanted a meeting but Maureen thought it would be better to reach out to the user group first with the hope of opening the door to discuss what is being used. OS&F would like to weigh in and suggest advising abutters as a courtesy.

-Rick will talk to SJB and Bob (Sylvia) about a small group meeting.

-group discussion about the benefits of an organic land management approach

Steward Survey:

Not ready

Valley:

(Mason) looking for more access from the west side.

Parking/handicap access?

- (discussion) possibility of screening the back of the shopping center

Adjournment

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

Submitted by T. Welch