



Town of Middletown Planning Department

350 East Main Rd., Middletown RI 02842 (401) 849-4027

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES Historic Preservation Subcommittee

August 2, 2018 – 3:00pm

Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 350 East Main Rd., Middletown, RI

Subcommittee members present:

Betty Jane Owen, Chair
Paul Croce

Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Member not present:

Bill Nash

1. Review and discuss possible zoning amendments that would allow for the creation of a Rural Village District.

Ms. Owen called the meeting to order at 3:00pm

- Ms. Owen described materials she had collected, including several documents available from the Middletown Historical Society.
- Mr. Wolanski provided a memo dated August 1, 2018 outlining the language from the Middletown Comprehensive Plan regarding preservation of historic resources. The applicable action item from the plan states: "Adopt ordinances to require historically correct restoration of historic buildings and to discourage demolition or inappropriate use of valuable historic resources."
- There was discussion of the properties to which any new regulations would apply. Inventories of the town's historic resources produced by the Middletown Historical Society and the state historic preservation commission are decades old. It was suggested that updating the inventory is the first necessary step. Mr. Croce suggested that the town considered establishing a committee to complete an updated inventory of historically important properties.
- There was discussion of whether designation of such properties for regulatory purposes would be voluntary or mandatory. Voluntary designation was seen as problematic if tied to regulatory requirements. Ms. Owen suggested that incentives could be offered to encourage voluntary designation, which could also include provision of a marker or plaque to be displayed on the property.
- By consensus it was decided that the full Planning Board should be included in the conversation, including the possible recommendation to the Town Council to establish a non-regulatory historic preservation committee to assist with the inventory and consideration of potential regulatory options.

By consensus the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10pm

Respectfully submitted:

DRAFT