

# Middletown Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

## Special Meeting for “Town Center “Planning

Held on October 30 and November 5

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karen Day at 3:00 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Middletown Town Hall.

Those attending were: Karen Day, Bill DiMarco, Bob Johnson, Chuck Di Tucci, Alan Kirby, Warren Hall, Mason Hawes, Will Cronin and Shawn Brown.

This special meeting was called to plan the tree planting and trail mapping for the former Kempenaar property located off High street, sometimes referred to as the Town Center.

Shawn Brown provided a brief history of the whole issue including State and Federal politics and Town funding. This project has had funding approval by the Town Council for many years, but due to “contaminated”soil conditions, it has been on hold. It appears that the “contamination” is at a level that is very close to acceptable, and in some parts of the country, it would be acceptable.

Included in his discussion were several drawings of different plans for the area that were prepared over the years. Shawn discussed some tough political struggles with several state and federal agencies that he and others have gone through on this effort. As a result, we now have approval to begin trail construction and tree planting. Therefore we want to start this project this winter before a possible shifting of the political winds, and thus the reason for this special meeting. The plan is to have DPW personnel construct the trails, and tree commission design the plantings.

Finances (from Shawn)

1. At present, there is approximately \$200k in the budget. That includes \$20k for tree planting. The remainder will fund the DPW to create the trails and at least one parking lot.
2. It was noted that the property is quite large and this \$20k will not be enough for proper tree coverage. However, Shawn indicated that the council has shown willingness to continue to support this with more funds over the coming years in order to bring the whole project to fruition.

## Trail construction

Warren Hall presented cross sectional drawings of the planned trails. They will consist of a gravel bed topped with stone dust tapering off on each side. He took the action to estimate the per foot cost of the trails.

## Trail planning

Several drawings were provided by Shawn and one by Warren. They were all different designs, with some being much more elaborate than others.

Mason Hawes, representing the Open Space Committee, provided background of previous efforts and reminded us of the requirements for handicapped access.

Bill took the action of contacting Joe Cerrillo with respect to that subject.

To help with the trail planning, it was decided to walk the property on November 5 which we did, and is discussed below.

## Property Walk (5 November)

We met at 3:00 at the northern end of the property. Those attending were Karen Day, Alan Kirby, Chuck DiTucci, BJ Nothrup-Owen, Bob Johnson, Warren Hall, Tom O'loughlin, Will Cronin and Bill DiMarco.

Warren Hall indicated that the per-foot cost of the trails will be approximately \$3.50.

As we meandered around, discussed the world's problems and enjoyed the nice fall day, Will marked points of a would-be trail, while Warren entered said points into his GPS thingy. Handicapped access was discussed and considered during the trail mapping.



Over the next couple of weeks, Warren will import that data to the town's GSS system producing plots of the walked trail on mapped onto the property.

A meeting was been planned for Thursday 11/20 at 3:00 at the Town Hall to review the meanderings.

Respectively submitted,

Bill DiMarco, secretary Middletown Tree Commission.