

Minutes Middletown Parks & Recreation Committee- Tues Nov 25, 2009
Present: Tony Ventre, Pam Dietrick, Lewis Corl, Jerry Ziemba.

1. Senior-related recreational activities and Dottie Engle at our Meeting. Dottie is the unofficial Middletown Valley Coordinator for Seniors (age 50 and up). (The Middletown Valley "area" goes from Burkettsville, to So Mountain to Myersville, to Braddock Heights.) Among her other activities, Dottie coordinates an Exercise Session held weekly and a catered lunch every second Tuesday for seniors at the Amvets in Middletown. The exercises included a range of activities like aerobic; strength; balance; stretching and yogi. The number of seniors at the exercise sessions have ranged from 25 to 57. Dottie also spoke about the Zion Lutheran Church program for seniors every other Thursday from 11:30AM to 5:00PM. Given that the Middletown Parks & Recreation Committee declared that this year the Committee would strive to focus on senior-related recreation items, we invited Dottie to insure that we were exposed to a "senior" perspective and needs. Dottie talked about the less-than-equal status that Middletown Valley experienced relative to other Senior Centers (Emmitsburg, Walkersville, Brunswick, and Frederick.) She commented on certain difficulties in the areas of Meal on Wheels (food quality; food distribution; and generally perceived marginal support from the County) and on the lack of scheduled Transit services. With regard to seniors, Dottie indicated that seniors might like more horseshoe tosses in the Parks and, of course, some swimming possibilities. Dottie endorsed and spoke in support of a senior-focused recreational survey to elicit suggestions for more senior-related recreational activities. Lewis suggested installation of a "ladder ball" activities. The Committee members were asked to come to the next meeting with a proposed question for the survey.

2. Letters of Appreciation. The Committee reaffirmed its support for the Town Board to send a letter of appreciation to (1) Lewis Corl for his work on establishing the Primary School Walkway; and (2) Pam Dietrick for her untiring efforts on bringing a skateboard spot to the Middletown County Park.

3. Promote Activities and More Recreational Use at Wiles Branch Park. The Committee decided on an outreach program with Boy, Girl, and Cub Scouts to promote potential camp-outs at Wiles Branch. Joan will contact each Valley scout group and encourage overnight camping, coordinated with Drew. In keeping with this activity, Joan will also ask the various scout groups about installation of a "fire-pit" (for possible marshmallow-roasting. etc); suggestions for a fire-pit design; and the need for rustic benches around the fire-pit. The Committee also asked if the Burgess might include some positive reference to the amenities in Wiles Branch (and possible scout camp-outs) in the next Quarterly letter from the Burgess. We also learned that MVAA did use the Park for scheduled activities.

4. Rules and regs for the Community Vegetable Garden/Pizza Garden (CVG/PG) at Wiles Branch. The Committee discussed the draft rules and regs that Pam developed and made some minor suggestions for enhancement. Pam will develop a "final" draft for presentation to the Committee at the next meeting. Once the Committee approves the rules/regs, the Committee will pass it on to the Town Board for vote and possible adoption. Once the Town Board approves the rules/regs for the Garden, Pam expressed the hope that the sign-up for the garden might be announced in January.

5. Signage for the walking path in Wiles Brach Park. The Committee discussed the two designs for signage submitted to Drew (one a vertical sign and the other a horizontal sign). The Committee voted for the vertical sign and asked that the sign include a mile marker in tenths of a mile on the sign. The first sign would be placed at the beginning of the Wiles Branch Trail (near Rte 40A) and would show the length of the Trail in tenths of a mile (e.g. 0.6 miles). Subsequent Trail markers would be placed at the mid-point and then one at the end.

6. Town map of Middletown Trails. Drew developed an oversized Town map featuring the existing, planned, and proposed trails, each color-coded. We only had one suggestion -- to color-code the sidewalks (i.e. the Glenbrook Parkway sidewalk that have been nominally noted as part of the proposed Town circumferential trail network) a different color. The Committee also agreed with Drew that the Trail near the ACJets property should go along the Hollow Creek on south side as opposed to going along the Parkway easement through the AC Jets property. This part of the Middletown trail network would connect up with the Foxfield Trail on the East and with the possible sidewalk on Route 40A on the West side, when and if the ACJets property is developed. Lewis will coordinate this item with Drew.

7. Proposed agenda items for December meeting:

- (1) Log bench design in Memorial Park-Pam;
- (2) Proposed additional benches in Middletown-all;
- (3) New draft of garden rules/regs-Pam;
- (4) Senior survey questions-all;
- (5) Prioritizing Committee ideas for Wiles Branch Park enhancement-all;
- (6) Wiles Branch trail marker signage feedback - Tony;
- (7) Letters of Appreciation-Tony;
- (8) New Trail map - Lewis;
- (9) Timing of need for ideas for 2010 POS funding-Tony.
- (10) Possible Grant ideas for Primary School Walking Trail-Lewis.

Jerry Ziemba
Dec 3, 2009