

MIDDLETOWN LEADS

WHAT IS MIDDLETOWN LEADS?

Middletown Leads is a weekly newsletter intended to connect the Middletown community by providing information about the civic undertakings of the Town.

REGIONALIZATION PRESENTATIONS ON WEB SITE

The July 1, 2019 Town Council meeting included two PowerPoint presentations. The first was a lengthy series of documents intended to explain the vote of the majority who opposed engaging in discussions related to the regionalization of the schools or to a unified high school.

The second was a comparative study of nine high schools – five single district high schools and 4 regional high schools.

View the presentations on the Middletown web site. Select *Middletown TV*, then select *Town Council Meetings*.

ORDINANCES

Although the above-mentioned presentations consumed a substantial period of time, there was other business on the docket.

An ordinance related to the installation of small wireless facilities was approved on its second reading. The ordinance allows the following:

“A wireless service provider authorized to do business in the State of Rhode Island or a contractor acting on its behalf may collocate small wireless facilities within, along, across, upon, and under any public way and may construct conduit, cables, and facilities between such small wireless facility and other equipment or services located on or adjacent to the supporting pole or other structure, subject to approval and compliance with applicable provisions of the Town Code of Ordinances.”

An ordinance was amended to facilitate minor fee increases to season parking passes at Sachuest Beach, Third Beach, and Middletown Town Beach.

Week Days	from \$18 to \$20
Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays	from \$26 to \$30
Motorcycles	from \$10 to \$15

CIVIC APPROPRIATIONS

Civic appropriations were granted to the Star Kids Scholarship Program and Meals on Wheels.

DOG PARK

Lengthy discussion took place related to a request at a previous meeting that the Town Council establish a dog park. A counselor was concerned that the request might have been denied without sufficient consideration by the Open Space and Fields Committee.

In fact, the Town Council learned that the committee had done and was continuing to do extensive exploration of the issues related to dogs in the community, including consulting stakeholders such as the Aquidneck Island Land Trust, Clean Ocean Access, the Middletown Police and the Dog Officer, the Newport Department of Parks and Recreation, and the City and Town Clerks of all three island communities.

Strategies being considered include signage, monitoring “hot” spots, a survey, flyers and other broad-based communication such as the Town web site, enforcement, etc.

Attention was drawn to the Town’s dog related ordinances, which require licensing, restraint/leashes, and prohibited locations, among others.

POLICE VEHICLES

The Town Council was informed that one of the Police Vehicles was identified as unsafe and was being declared as surplus. The cost of fixing the vehicle far outweighs the benefits of replacing it. A purchase request was submitted for replacement through the Capital Improvement Program.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

The Town Council approved seeking a grant from National Grid to support the purchase and installation of vehicle charging stations to be located at Town Hall and the Middletown Public Library.

ROADS - CRACK SEALING SERVICES

The Town Council awarded a contract to be funded from the Capital Improvement Program to support road repairs identified as needed in the Road Pavement Program.

SHORT TERM RENTAL MONITORING

The Town Council approved a Service Agreement to Host Compliance for Short Term Rental Monitoring. There is currently a minimum of 526 units of short-term rentals in Middletown. Services would include the following among other services:

- Up-to-date list of active STR listings with full address and contact information
- Ongoing monitoring of STR’s for zoning and permit compliance
- Pro-active outreach to unpermitted and/or illegal STR’s
- 24/7 staffed telephone and email hotline.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Town Council approved a contract with National Citizen Survey to be completed before the end of the calendar year. It would include the mailing of a five-page survey to 1,700 households in the Middletown community.

FOOTNOTE

Editorial essays appear occasionally at the following website: <https://middletownleads.blogspot.com/>