

Charlestown Town Council

March 12, 2018

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Final

CALL TO ORDER, Moment of Silence, Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Julie A. Carroccia

The **Regular Meeting** of the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown, duly advertised and posted, was held **March 12, 2018, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI.

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Council Vice President Julie A. Carroccia at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, preceded by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Virginia Lee	President	Absent	
Denise L. Rhodes	Councilor	Present	
George Tremblay		Present	
Bonnie VanSlyke	Councilor	Present	
Julie A. Carroccia	Vice President	Present	

Also in attendance were Town Clerk Amy Rose Weinreich, Town Administrator Mark S. Stankiewicz and Attorney Peter D. Ruggiero.

PROCLAMATIONS

A. Swearing in of Police Chief Michael Paliotta

Ms. Carroccia stated that it was a great pleasure to have the new Chief of Police sworn in this evening, noting that Chief Paliotta's appointment by the Town Council recognizes all of his hard work for the past 25 years in this Town. She stated that he has earned a lot of respect from his management, and his co-workers, as well as the residents of the Town. Ms. Carroccia addressed the other members of the Police force in attendance, noting that their careers could advance similarly with the degree of dedication that Chief Paliotta has exhibited.

The Town Clerk administered the following oath of office to Michael J. Paliotta, Chief of Police:

Do you, Michael J. Paliotta, solemnly swear and affirm that you will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Do you pledge that you will observe the provisions of the Home Rule Charter and the Ordinances of the Town of Charlestown and faithfully discharge your duties as a member of the Charlestown Police Department.

Do you swear to always be loyal to your duty and the organization and to recognize the badge of your office as Chief of Police as a symbol of public faith and trust.

Do you pledge to constantly strive to achieve the objectives and ideals of the law enforcement profession and to be true to the ethics of Police service as a proud member of the Charlestown Police Department.

Chief Paliotta read the following statement into the record:

Thank you all very much for the wonderful turnout.

Good evening and welcome everyone. It's truly an honor and a privilege to stand before you tonight and be sworn in as Charlestown's new Chief of Police. This experience has been both exciting and humbling for me. I embrace this great opportunity and understand the gravity of my new responsibilities. I pledge to do my very best to serve this community and the members of the Charlestown Police Department.

There are many thanks that I would like to extend tonight. I'd like to begin by thanking the members of the Charlestown Town Council, the Town Administrator and his staff and the outgoing Chief of Police. They have each shown me and all the members of this department incredible support. It is their support and guidance that makes it possible for the Charlestown Police Department to succeed at delivering high quality law enforcement services to this community. I sincerely thank you. Next I'd like to thank my incredible wife, Heather, and my wonderful family. Without their support and encouragement throughout my career, I would never have been able to accomplish the things that I have. My family keeps me motivated, encourages me to push on and to accomplish great things. As they can attest, there is nothing easy about having a Police Officer in the family, so I extend a big thank you to them and all my friends here in the audience tonight. It's your support and encouragement that makes nights like this possible. Most importantly, I'd like to thank the fine men and women of the Charlestown Police Department for their support and their service to this community. I have the distinct honor of working alongside many qualified and motivated people every day. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank these public servants for everything they do in the service of this community. So thank you for your service and keep up the great work.

Ladies and gentleman, it is with great pride and confidence that I can stand before you here tonight to report to the citizens of Charlestown that your Police Department is both healthy and strong. I am extremely proud to be assuming command of a vibrant and professional law enforcement agency. The Charlestown Police Department is filled with well trained and highly competent Police personnel. Thanks to the hard work of many people in this room, the future of our Department is bright. The Charlestown Police Department is well prepared for the many challenges of policing in the 21st century.

So as my first official duty as Chief of Police, I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly state for the members of the Police Department and this community the vision statement of the Police Department. Our vision statement is more than mere words on a page or on a website. These words are why our organization exists and why we've chosen to be police officers. Our vision statement is as follows:

The Charlestown Police Department will exist to preserve liberty, to enhance the safety of the community and defend human dignity. We will be an organization in which each employee braces integrity as the cornerstone upon which the public trust is built. We will foster an environment where honesty, trust and mutual respect in which the Department and the Community work together as catalysts for positive change. We strive to be recognized for our strong service orientation, progressive development of all our human resources and our application of emerging

technology. We will embody the values of the Department and reflect these values in the performance of our duties. We will continue to build upon this vision through our open communication and accountability.

As Chief of Police, it is now my duty to see to it that the members of the Department live up to this vision every day. I endeavor to do this every day. Thank you All.

At 7:09 p.m. the Council took as a 10 minute recess.

B. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding the Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Henry Heminway for His Years of Service to the Town

Ms. Carroccia stated that the Council would like to recognize Henry Heminway for his extensive service to the Town as part of the Budget Commission, noting that during her opportunity to work with Mr. Heminway, he always showed good judgement, listening carefully to all of the presented information prior to making a decision and stated that it was an honor to work with him.

Richard J. Sartor, Budget Commission Chair, stated that Mr. Heminway had been serving the Town as a member of the Commission for nearly 20 years. Mr. Sartor explained that the Commission met every year from January through March to resolve the budget and recommend a tax rate, which is currently the fourth lowest in the state, largely due to Mr. Heminway's work. Mr. Sartor stated that Mr. Heminway brought business experience and conservative fiscal policies to the Commission. Mr. Sartor explained that Mr. Heminway has chosen to retire and that the Commission was sorry to see him go. Mr. Sartor thanked him for his service and congratulated him on his retirement. He explained that the Commission was a group that laughed and joked and disagreed vehemently, but came together with a conclusion that works on behalf of the Town.

Ms. Carroccia presented Mr. Heminway with a commemorative clock and the following resolution:

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

In Honor of

Henry "Hemy" Heminway

This Certificate of Appreciation is being presented to Henry "Hemy" Heminway for his contribution to the Town of Charlestown as a member and Vice Chairman of the Budget Commission, serving the Town for over seventeen years, being first appointed to the Commission in January of 2000.

Mr. Heminway demonstrated tireless dedication in his duties as a member of the Budget Commission, as well as serving on the Police Building Committee Ad Hoc in 2003 to oversee the construction of a new Police Station on Route 1A and the Ad Hoc Beach Structure Committee in 2011 to oversee the construction of the Pavilions at the Charlestown Town Beach and Blue Shutters Beach.

Hemy's manufacturing and business experience have well served the Town and its residents for many years. He has generously contributed his expertise, judgement and counsel on issues of importance concerning our community. He is a private person, who with selfless dedication, has helped make Charlestown the fine community it is today. We appreciate, honor and thank him for his service on behalf of the people of our town.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown hereby adopts this Certificate of Appreciation in honor of Henry Heminway for his dedicated and faithful service to the Town and Community.

Be it Further Resolved that this Certificate be placed in the official minutes of this meeting as acknowledgement of his service.

In testimony whereof and by the authority vested in us, we hereby confer this Certificate of Appreciation.

Mr. Heminway addressed the Council, stating that it had been an honor to serve the Town and thanked Mr. Sartor and the entire Commission for their nonpartisan work for the good of the Town.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Tremblay observed that there was an article in the Providence Journal this week concerning banning plastic bags across Aquidneck Island in the last year, noting Charlestown's efforts to reduce plastic bag use by subsidizing tote bags. He stated that he met with two of the local retailers, Charlie Beck at the Mini Super and John Sawyer at the Village Baker, noting that they had placed another order for the upcoming season.

Ms. Van Slyke noted that an individual solicited input from the Parks and Recreation Commission last month concerning the Master Plan for the State Bicycle Plan; he will return to the March 27, 2018 meeting of the Commission at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, to gather additional input. She noted as the Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission that the RIDOT had approved the physical alteration permit for the entrance to Ninigret Park and that the project was out to bid with hopes that the project would be completed this season. She noted that the Planning Commission was still working on the Comp Plan with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers; she encouraged public input and noted that the focus of the meeting may be Housing. She announced that the Chariho District Financial Referendum would be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with all Charlestown voters to vote at the Charlestown Town Hall in the Council Chambers. She stated that the Director of Public Works has arranged for an Eco Depot to dispose of hazardous materials at the RI Transportation Barn in Cross' Mills on Saturday, May 12, 2018; this will be a free service. She stated that more information could be obtained from the Department of Public Works or from the RI Resource Recovery website.

Ms. Carroccia stated as Liaison to the Budget Commission that the Commission was working through some of the final aspects of the budget; noting the hard work of the Commission, meeting two days a week for the entire first quarter of the year. She stated that the Town's former Police Chief's Retirement Party was very well attended by people from the community, the State and other communities, to celebrate with him and thank him for his years of service. She noted that the Economic Improvement Commission was getting ready to publish an updated Business Map, prior to the tourist season, to make part-time residents and visitors aware of what the Town has to offer. She stated that the Chariho Budget Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at the Chariho Middle School Auditorium in preparation for the Referendum, noting that all three towns were adequately represented. She stated that the area was bracing for yet another storm, and thanked the people that make things work in the Town - Chief Paliotta, Charlestown Emergency Management Director Kevin Gallup, and the Director of Public Works, Alan Arsenault. Ms. Carroccia thanked Cheryl Dowdell for her letter to the editor concerning the need for a Charter Review Commission, noting that the Council would be addressing the issue in the near future.

Ms. Rhodes announced that the Easter Egg Hunt would be held on Saturday, March 31, 2018 and that an

Earth Day Fest would be held on April 21, 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the Agenda

Ms. Carroccia noted the Council's appreciation for input from the public, allowing the Council to receive diverse opinions and to sometimes rethink their initial positions. She explained that the Council did not respond to these comments, to avoid an open meetings violation by speaking about the merits or content of a particular topic that is not on the evening's agenda.

Cheryl Dowdell addressed the Council, thanking them for their appreciation. She stated that she watched the agenda meeting from last week and noticed that an item was tabled so that the Council could review the Charter and the Ordinances. She expressed her concern about timing, stating that 60 days before the General Election would be September and that the last opportunity for a public hearing would be the August meeting. She provided some history of the matter, stating that Chapter 6 mentions that the Town Council appoints the Charter Revision Committee, to have 3 to 7 people, to meet at least once a year for the length of the Town Council term. She noted that she has served on two different Charter Revision Commissions/Committees, always being approached by a Town Councilor prior to appointment. She spoke to the previous Financial Town Meeting procedure. She stated that August 9, 2016 was the last possible date that the Town could hold a public hearing in connection with the bonding at a General Election; she noted that during that meeting, the Council spoke extensively about needing a Charter Revision Commission. She expressed that this was not necessarily a Commission that citizens would volunteer for, but that the Council could seek out citizens to serve on the Commission. She noted that the community may not have the opportunity to engage in the matter, because of the short time frame. She expressed her desire for appointments to be made in April so that the Committee could begin to work through the issues before July.

ADMINISTRATOR, SOLICITOR and COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Town Administrator Report

The Town Administrator's Report was received and placed on file.

B. Town Solicitor Report

The Town Solicitor noted that Charlestown's involvement in the Invenegy matter had concluded.

C. Commission Reports - None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding a Resolution in Opposition to the Proposed Inclusion of the North Atlantic Region in the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Ms. Rhodes explained that the Council had received a communication from the Office of the Governor regarding the North Atlantic Region in the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and stated that on behalf of the Fishing and Tourism industries, coastal communities and everyone who values the health and welfare of Narragansett Bay and our coastal waters the Governor was pushing back hard and looking for the cities and towns to join her in opposition. She read the following Resolution into the record:

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN, RI

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED INCLUSION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGION IN THE 2019-2024 NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) in the U.S. Department of Interior has released the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program, a draft program proposal for offshore oil and gas leasing for the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would open the federal waters of the North Atlantic region to oil and gas exploration and drilling, an area that begins just three miles off the coasts of New Jersey through Maine, within which the State of Rhode Island is centrally situated; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders have long relied upon New England's marine environment as a source of food, jobs, and recreation and, through strong laws and leadership at the state and local levels, have conserved and protected our fisheries, habitats, and coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's commitment to sound marine and coastal stewardship has reaped enormous cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for the citizens of the State, with healthy coastal communities, a vibrant Narragansett Bay, a thriving tourist industry, and productive fisheries all serving as hallmarks of the Ocean State; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has long been committed to sound ocean planning as a basis for accommodating new, sustainable ocean uses such as wind energy and is home to the nation's first offshore wind farm; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island recognizes and is acting upon the need to ensure that its coastal communities are resilient in the face of rising sea levels and other impacts associated with climate change; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas drilling has never been viewed as compatible with our state and regional interests and thus has been removed from consideration for decades; and

WHEREAS, prior experience has shown the devastating consequences of oil spills; and

WHEREAS, now, more than ever, Rhode Islanders, in every community, stand opposed to the use of our offshore waters to oil and gas drilling;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, united in our determination to protect our cultural heritage, our marine ecosystem, and our economic future, hereby call upon the Secretary of the Interior to remove the North Atlantic region from consideration for oil and gas exploration and drilling.

Motion to adopt the Resolution as read and to forward a copy to the Governor and all other municipalities in the State of Rhode Island.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	George Tremblay, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

B. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding a Resolution Relative to the Regulation of Property Subject to Taxation

Ms. Rhodes read the following Resolution into the record:

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN
 A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE REGULATION OF
 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION
 EXEMPTION CALCULATION**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown (the "Town") is desirous to make the Town a welcome place for all to make their place of residence; and

WHEREAS, the Town has been able to provide adjustments of property tax exemption for those qualifying under state laws, to ease their tax burden; and

WHEREAS, under current state laws, the Town is given authority to offer tax assessment exemptions on properties to reduce the cost of local taxation; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires that the General Assembly authorize the Town to provide allowance for the Charlestown Council to amend said tax assessment exemptions and allow the right, by ordinance, to create tax dollar credit reductions, in place of tax assessment exemptions for these same personal exemptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown, Rhode Island, respectfully request that the General Assembly *specifically allow the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown to modify, by local ordinance, each personal tax assessment exemption to a tax dollar credit reduction* for the following personal exemption under Rhode Island General Law:

- 44-3-4 Veterans' exemptions
- 44-3-5 Gold Star parent exemption
- 44-3-12 Visually impaired persons exemption
- 44-3-13 Persons over the age of 65 years exemption
- 44-3-15 Persons who are totally disabled.
- 44-3-16 Elderly Freeze of tax rate and valuation
- 44-4-9 Rules for taxation of tangible personal property

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby instructed to submit a copy of this resolution to the Town of Charlestown's State Senators and State Representative in the Rhode Island General Assembly in consideration of their support to submit and act to pass this amendment to the General Laws.

The RESOLUTION shall take effect on passage.

Motion to adopt the Resolution as read.

Ms. Van Slyke stated that her understanding was that a good many of these exemptions and credits have been applied to various properties in Town over the years, but that the Town has never specifically received permission from the State to do this. She stated that the advice has been received to ask for the enabling legislation as a housekeeping item with increases to the General Veterans Exemption for all service dates and the Gold Star Parents Exemption to happen in the future.

Ms. Rhodes clarified that all exemptions would be tax credit exemptions rather than tax assessment exemptions for transparent comparison.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

Mr. Stankiewicz requested, in light of the impending storm and out of courtesy to RI EMA Director Peter Gaynor, that the Council take the agenda out of order and hear the New Business item next.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding the Federal Communications Commission Filing A1088475 for the Construction of a 178 Foot Tall Self-Supported Tower and Associated Equipment at 4782 Post Road in Charlestown; or Take Any Other Action Relative Thereto

Peter Gaynor, Director of Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, addressed the Council concerning the matter and distributed a packet of information to the Council.

Ms. Carroccia stated that this matter was brought to the Council's attention within the past few weeks.

Mr. Gaynor explained that he was responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of the State's RISON system (RI State Interoperability Communications System), a system that supports 10,000 first responders across the state, including Police, Fire, Emergency Management, and Public Works, comprised of 27 towers across the state. Mr. Gaynor stated that Rhode Island is one of the few states in the US that has a complete border-to-border 800 megahertz system, built by Federal Homeland Security money over the past 10-15 years. He explained that this project was part of a \$10.2 million project to upgrade the entire system across the state, putting up a few new towers and adjusting the location of a few towers. He stated that the proposed tower in Charlestown would help to fill in some dead space, explaining that the radios used by Police and Fire contact a network, and Departments could then contact each other. He stated that this was a public safety issue to correct some of the current existing shortfalls in Charlestown and South County. He stated that this network was funded by Homeland Security funds, and was free to all the local departments across the state. He noted the robust nature of the system explaining that officers could contact not only their local department, but also neighboring towns and the State Police. He stressed the importance

of this issue, stating that the radio that an officers carries is sometimes more important than the weapon he carries, because without that radio, he is unable to call for help.

Mr. Gaynor stated that this tower specifically supports Charlestown EMS and Fire as part-time users, the Charlestown Police Department as a full-time user, the Tribe, Westerly Police Department, Westerly EMS and Fire, South County Police Department and Fire, Richmond Police Department and Fire as part-time users, Hopkinton Police and Fire as part-time users, RI State Police Highway Patrol, RI DEM Parks and Recreation, RI HAZMAT and DECON teams, RI DOT, RIPTA and the US Coast Guard.

He stated that this project, if approved, would increase coverage in areas along Route 1, URI campus, Narragansett and Burlingame State Park.

Ms. Van Slyke inquired why this location was selected and if other locations had been investigated. Mr. Gaynor stated that the tower was originally located at Town Hall on a small tower and that they were not able to raise or build a tower on its current location, so alternate locations were sought. He explained that a tower must be in a specific place to allow officers the proper space to operate and fill any dead spots, stating that the tower can only be located in a few locations to meet these needs. Ms. Van Slyke asked if the selected Charlestown site was the only place the tower could be located. She expressed her concern that the site was located adjacent to a scenic highway, in the Historic Village Overlay District, in the Traditional Overlay District and at 175 feet, the tower would be seen from the beaches and ponds. She asked what was causing the "dead spots". Mr. Gaynor explained that hills and valleys and vegetation in the area could interfere with radio signals, stating that if a tower was not high enough or in the exact space that was needed, the tower must be built higher or additional towers must be added. He stated that alternate area locations were sought, explaining that higher elevations and State owned properties were ideal when combined with proper coverage and stated that this location was the only viable place for this tower.

Mr. Tremblay inquired about the viability of the Police Station location. Mr. Gaynor spoke to the coverage map, stating that moving a tower may improve coverage in one area, but may make coverage in other area worse and explained that it was a balancing act to find the optimal location for a tower. Mr. Tremblay noted that the Town recently spent roughly \$1 million to acquire a piece of property called "Whalerock" to protect the scenic section of Route 1 from proposed wind turbines, in approximately the same area as this tower is proposed. He stated that this tower was incompatible with the Town's efforts to maintain the scenic highway. He noted that Cross' Mills was the center of the original town, stating that in terms of historic and scenic value the tower would be an eyesore. He asked that the State find a location that takes advantage of existing towers or was less intrusive to the main thoroughfare of the town. Mr. Gaynor agreed that existing towers were ideal, depending on engineering and location. He stated that Motorola is the carrier throughout the State for this system, explaining that a thorough investigation was performed as to where towers could be located and that there were not many alternate locations.

Ms. Van Slyke asked if the project were constrained by State owned property. Mr. Gaynor stated that different kinds of property was investigated, but that it was more economical and easier to stay within the budget dictated by the legislature if State owned property is utilized for the project. Ms. Van Slyke inquired whether acquisition of other properties with more than one tower on the property were investigated and why the tower must be 175 feet in height. Mr. Gaynor stated that the height of 175 feet was necessary for the required coverage along Route 1 in the Charlestown area. He noted that there was not budgetary funds available for two towers, noting that construction of this tower would cost approximately \$1 million without all the necessary equipment to be mounted onto it. Ms. Van Slyke inquired if this were the best location for the scenic roadway, if this were the best location for the Historic District, and if this were the best location for the Traditional Village District, considering that this was a residential area, zoned R2A. She noted that there were local ordinances in place for the regulation of communication towers to consider fall zone, to include development review, and requiring a Special Use Permit to build. She noted that the State may not be required to comply with local regulations, but inquired why the State wouldn't try to comply. Mr. Gaynor stated that the State has done its best to meet the public safety standard, stressed that this purpose was his focus, rather than the aesthetics and stated that he was before the Council this evening to hear their concerns. He reiterated that his role and statutory responsibility was to provide the best public safety radio coverage to the first responders of the State.

Ms. Carroccia stated that the Town has recently spent \$1 million to protect the scenic value of that stretch of the highway, noting that an equal amount would be spent for this proposed tower.

Ms. Van Slyke stated that since 1991, the Town's Comprehensive Plan has had goals for the Traditional Village District and Historical Overlay District and that the Town's tourism economy depended on Ninigret Pond and the beaches, noting that this project would tower over all of that. She encouraged further investigation for alternate locations.

Mr. Tremblay inquired whether the proposal could be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review. Ms. Van Slyke noted the 30 day comment period. Mr. Gaynor explained that the project was currently in the FCC comment period. Mr. Stankiewicz confirmed that the comment period would end on March 27, 2018.

Ms. Carroccia inquired what wind speed the tower would withstand and what type of winds Charlestown typically experiences. Mr. Gaynor stated that he was not an engineer, but that the tower was rated for the environment and the equipment that would be utilized. He stated that Motorola was the engineer for the project.

Ms. Carroccia inquired what type of lights would be mounted on the tower, noting the Town's dark sky ordinance. Mr. Gaynor stated that the tower would have the FAA required lighting, based on the location of the tower and in relation to area airports, potentially a red light for aircraft, but no ground lighting.

Ms. Van Slyke stated that the RI DOT's facility may pre-date zoning requirements in the Town of Charlestown; however, this project would significantly expand a potentially incompatible use of the property. Mr. Gaynor clarified that the project was within the footprint of the State property. Ms. Carroccia noted that the project was adjacent to residential properties.

Mr. Tremblay stated that he found the tower to be objectionable. Ms. Van Slyke agreed. Ms. Rhodes noted that the location was in proximity to conservation areas, the Charlestown Moraine Preserve and the White Cedar Swamp.

Ms. Carroccia opened the discussion for public comment. Ms. Van Slyke stated that she had received a call from a neighbor to the project expressing her displeasure.

Donna Deyorio of 4561 Old Post Rd, stated that the tower would be visible from her backyard. She noted that the Town was known for its beautiful beaches and scenic views, expressing that this tower would be a huge distraction. She suggested that a location closer to URI should be considered.

Ruth Platner, Chair of the Planning Commission, stated that the Commission has reviewed and approved

many telecommunication towers over the years, noting that the ordinances of the Town were in compliance with Federal law. She noted that a tower was proposed in Carolina and because the property was on the national historic register, the applicant was required to collect comments from Historic Preservation and as a result relocated the tower from its proposed location to an area that was less conspicuous. She suggested that the State Scenic Road Board should convene to provide an opinion about the project. She noted that the Town's Zoning Ordinance required applicants to approach existing telecommunication towers to request available space. She noted that the new streetlights communicate on a network, suggesting that this project carrier could consider this option. She noted that the local ordinance did not permit external antennas; rather, antennas must be sheathed within the tower to reduce visual noise. She stated that she didn't believe this proposal would adhere to the local ordinances, and stated that the proposal should go through the local approval process.

Kevin Gallup, Director of Charlestown Emergency Management Agency, explained that the federal money that is available for this project (700-800 system) tracks back to 9-11; the 9-11 Report stated that public servants in this country should be on the best technical radio system across the country. He stated that currently the tower was using the 800 system; although the radios cost twice as much, with the flip of a switch, the radios convert to the 700 system which is technically the best of the radio frequencies. He explained that sections of federal TV frequencies were sold off to obtain funding for these types of tower projects across the country; these radios are compatible with radio systems out in California if necessary. He expressed his concerns over the current proposal, specifically about the wind load in the coastal area, explaining that the Building Official believed the tower engineering would need to be built to 138 mph, which is just shy of a category 4 hurricane. He noted that the 1938 Hurricane was a high category 3 hurricane and that most recently the Town has seen category 1 and category 2 hurricanes, stating that the tower seemed to be survivable. Ms. Van Slyke noted that the forward track of a storm added to velocity. He noted that an emergency generator was built into the project. He commented on the earlier suggestion of smaller radios on a cloud type system, noting that this was designed to be an independent system, similar to a cell phone tower, for triangulation purposes. He spoke to the issue of the moraine in the Charlestown area and the previous difficulties with portable and hand-held radios in the East Beach areas. He spoke to a similar issue in the Matunuck area and by Dunns' Corner, Station 2 and expressed his hope that this tower would eliminate those dead spots. He spoke to his personal desire that the tower be located further from the coast, noting that it would be visible from Perryville to the Westerly line. He further stated that technically this was a good idea, but aesthetically it was a terrible idea. Ms. Van Slyke suggested that the tower be located either in Perryville or Westerly. Mr. Gallup explained that radio waves operated on strength of frequency; for each foot the tower goes up, it would reach an additional 1000 feet out. If the tower were located in Perryville, the signal strength would not be sufficient in Westerly and vice versa; thus, the proposal was to place the tower in the middle. Ms. Van Slyke inquired about usage of the Charlestown Police antennae; Mr. Gallup explained that there was not an 800 frequency antennae at the Charlestown Police Station. Ms. Van Slyke inquired about the addition of an 800 frequency antennae at the Charlestown Police Station; Mr. Gallup explained that some frequencies overpowered others and that this option would need to be investigated further. He considered the invaluable nature of this type of system allowing EMS operators to potentially be in communication with Hasbro Children's Hospital for the entirety of the ride from Charlestown to Providence. He also considered whether navigationally the tower would be an aid or an eyesore.

Ms. Gaynor stated that his goal was to allow a local police officer at 3:00 in the morning on Route 1 in a dead zone with no radio communication and no passersby to offer assistance to call for help, stressing that at times, his radio was more important than his weapon. He stated that he understood the aesthetics and reiterated his goal to provide the best possible system to first responders across the state.

Mr. Tremblay spoke to the need to accommodate aesthetics as well and inquired if any such event had occurred in Charlestown or neighboring towns and if this was an attempt to prevent a hazard that is vanishingly small. Mr. Gaynor stated that government tends to spend money after the fact; this was an effort to spend available monies to build a system to prevent this type of event from happening. He stated that risk was inevitable and that tax dollars are spent to buy down that risk. Mr. Tremblay revisited the need to assess environmental damage in proportion to real risk.

Ms. Van Slyke inquired further about other options and alternate locations, noting an existing tall tower on Kings Factory Road. Mr. Gaynor stated that he was not the technician that reviewed alternate options and locations, but that he would review the project to determine what was considered and provide the information to the Council. Ms. Van Slyke noted the benefits of the Planning Commission's process for review. Mr. Gaynor noted that this project was in a different class than telecommunications and stated that elevation, location and ability to correct existing dead spots was of concern. Ms. Carroccia stated that the Council did not have an understanding of what alternate options and locations had been considered. Mr. Gaynor stated that Motorola had charted potential sites to include lists of pros and cons. Ms. Rhodes stated that there was elevated vacant property off of Route 216 that may be ideal for this project, as it is central to Westerly, URI and Matunuck and was not located in the Historic District or on a scenic roadway. Mr. Gaynor stated that he would provide the list of potential site locations to the Town for review.

Ms. Carroccia asked for a motion. Mr. Tremblay suggested that the matter be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review and comment. Mr. Stankiewicz detailed the comment period timeline, stating that the Town had 30 days to comment from the date the legal ad was published, which was February 27, 2018. He suggested that the Council could authorize him to submit a statement on behalf of the Town, relating to the aesthetics and scenic roads. Ms. Van Slyke suggested that the statement could cite local ordinances and the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Carroccia noted that the Tribe was not represented this evening, suggesting that they may have some objections to the project. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that copies could be sent to the State Legislators and the Governor.

Ms. Van Slyke inquired about the short timeframe. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that it was forwarded to the Council when he saw the legal ad. Mr. Gaynor stated that the plan, siting and cost requirements had just been completed with Motorola and approved. Ms. Rhodes asked why the plan didn't come before the Town first to ensure that the project was viable and fell within local ordinances. Mr. Gaynor stated that the Town has known about the project for about 24 months; he further stated that they had known that a solution was necessary. Ms. Rhodes inquired further why the Council was receiving notice at the eleventh hour when the project has been in the works for so long. Mr. Gaynor disagreed that this was the eleventh hour, stating that the process has been ongoing for 30 months and explained that the proposed tower will replace the existing tower at Town Hall. Mr. Stankiewicz explained that the existing tower was not sufficient and that adding on to the existing tower was not an option. He stated that the Town was aware that an alternate location was being sought, but had not received any communication

from Motorola as to where those alternate locations were.

Ms. Carroccia suggested that the Council ask the Town Administrator to take the lead on objecting the proposal.

Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to compile comments to be submitted to the Federal Communications Commission concerning Filing A1088475 for the Construction of a 178 Foot Tall Self-Supported Tower and Associated Equipment at 4782 Post Road in Charlestown, as per the legal advertisement.

Ms. Platner spoke to potential lighting associated with the tower, noting the proximity of the tower to the National Wildlife Refuge and that migratory birds would avoid tall lit objects.

Mr. Stankiewicz stated that he would work with the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Review and the Town Solicitor.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

APPOINTMENTS

A. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding an Appointment to the Economic Improvement Commission; There is One Position; Term to Expire in September of 2019. Application Received from Jim O’Keefe

Ms. Carroccia stated that the applicant had withdrawn his application.

B. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding the Appointment of a Traffic Constable as Recommended by the Chief of Police, Term to Expire January 2019: Daniel Abarr

Motion to appoint Daniel Abarr as a Traffic Constable, as Recommended by the Chief of Police, with a Term to Expire January 2019.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
SECONDER:	George Tremblay, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

C. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding an Appointment to the Affordable Housing Commission; There Are Three Positions; Terms to Expire in September of 2019. Application Received from Robert Malin

Ms. Van Slyke noted that this Commission has had trouble recently reaching a quorum.

Motion to appoint Robert Malin to the Affordable Housing Commission with a term to expire in September of 2019.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
SECONDER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Board, Commission and Committee Vacancies and Term Expirations

Ms. Carroccia read the following Board, Commission and Committee Vacancies as of March 12, 2018:

Affordable Housing Commission - 2 Vacancies; 1 Term Expiration (September 2017)

Agricultural Preservation - 1 Vacancy (Alternate)

Building Commission - 4 Vacancies; 1 Term Expiration (November 2017)

Chariho Finance Committee - 1 Vacancy

Economic Improvement Commission - 1 Vacancy

Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee - 1 Term Expiration (member at large - March 2017); 1 Term

Expiration (Parks and Rec member - February 2018); 1 Vacancy (EIC member)

Juvenile Hearing Board - 1 Term Expiration (February 2018)

Mosquito Abatement - 4 Vacancies

Ninigret Park Dog Park Facility Subcommittee - 1 Vacancy

Tax Assessment Board of Review - 1 Vacancy (full member, up to 2 Alternates)

Town Sergeant - 1 Vacancy

Tree Committee - 5 Vacancies

Tree Warden - 1 Vacancy

Wastewater Management Commission - 1 Vacancy

B. the Chariho District Financial Referendum is Scheduled to be Held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. All Charlestown Voters Will Vote at the Charlestown Town Hall in the Council Chambers

Ms. Carroccia announced that The Chariho District Financial Referendum was Scheduled to be Held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. All Charlestown Voters Will Vote at the Charlestown Town Hall in the Council Chambers.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to remove the following item from the Consent Agenda:

"CA" C. Approval of the Following Events to Occur Within the Town of Charlestown Per RIGL §31-12-12(A):

1. Event: 2018 Pete Murphy Memorial New England Time Trial

Event Dates: August 18, 2018

Route: from Switch Road in Richmond on to Route 91 East, Right on to Route 112 South, Onto Route 2 South, Right on to Route 1 South, Right on to Kings Factory Road, Onto Kings Factory Road in Richmond

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

Motion to remove the following item from the Consent Agenda:

"CA" A. Town Council Minutes:

3. February 12, 2018 (Regular)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

Motion to accept, approve and place on file the following as the consent agenda: "CA" A - "CA" I, excepting "CA" A. 3 and "CA" C.1.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

"CA" A. Town Council Minutes:

1. February 7, 2018 (Agenda)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

2. February 12, 2018 (Executive)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

"CA" B. Reports:

1. Building Official - February 2018

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

2. Public Works Director – February 2018

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

3. Town Clerk - February 2018

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

4. Treasurer - January 2018

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

"CA" C. Approval of the Following Events to Occur Within the Town of Charlestown Per RIGL §31-12-12(A):

2. Event: American Diabetes Association’s Ocean State Tour De Cure

Event Dates: June 3, 2018

100 Mile Route: from South Kingstown on to Worden’s Pond Road, Right on to Shannock Road, Left to Stay on Shannock Road into Richmond, from Westerly on to Route 216S, Left on to Buckeye Brook Road, Left on to Shumankanuc Hill Road, Left on to Kings Factory Road, into Richmond. from Richmond on to Route 91E, to Rest Stop at RICAN, Right on to Route 112S, Left Toward Route 2N into South Kingstown. 62 Mile Route: from South Kingstown on to Worden’s Pond Road, Right on to Shannock Road, Left to Stay on Shannock Road into Richmond, from Richmond on to Route 112S, Left Toward Route 2N into South Kingstown.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

“CA” D. Approval of the Following Events at Ninigret Park and Waiver of §108-4 and §108-5 of the Charlestown Code of Ordinances, as Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission Subject to Review of Contracts by the Town Solicitor, Receipt of All Applicable Paperwork and Insurance and that All Event Details Are Satisfactorily Met by the Parks and Recreation Director:

- 1. Event: Northeast Masters Cycling Association - NEMCA Skills Clinic
Event Dates: March 24, 2018
Camping: NA
Insurance: \$1 Million General Liability
Fee: \$25

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

- 2. Event: Mystic Velo Club Criterium
Event Dates: April 8, 2018
Camping: NA
Insurance: \$1 Million General Liability
Fee: \$200 Plus \$2 Per Rider After the Event

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

- 3. Event: Northeast Masters Cycling Association - Bob Beal Memorial Criterium
Event Dates: August 19, 2018
Camping: NA
Insurance: \$1 Million General Liability
Fee: \$200 Plus \$2 Per Rider After the Event

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

- 4. Event: New Hope Chapel Picnic
Event Dates: August 19, 2018
Camping: NA
Insurance: \$1 Million General Liability
Fee: Waived

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

“CA” E. Award of the Wicklund Park Tennis Courts Construction Bid to Beausoleil Bros., Inc. for an Amount Not to Exceed \$162,500.00, as Budgeted in Line Item 01.990.9950.000, and Authorization of the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer, Each, to Take Any and All Such Actions, and Execute and Deliver Such Certificates, Receipts or Other Documents as May be Necessary to Carry into Effect the Foregoing

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

"CA" F. Request from the Tax Assessor for Abatements in the Amount of \$949.20

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

"CA" G. Renewal of the Gate House Lease to William Clarkin from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020 at the Rate of \$500.00 Per Month as Recommended by the Director of Parks and Recreation and Parks and Recreation Commission

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

"CA" H. Approval to Enter into an Agreement with PRISM Streetlights, Inc., the Cross Mills Fire District and the Dunn’s Corner Fire District to Install Streetlight Controllers at the Cross Mills Fire Station and Quonochontaug Fire Station; and Authorization of the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer, Each, to Take Any and All Such Actions, and Execute and Deliver Such Certificates, Receipts or Other Documents as May be Necessary to Carry into Effect the Foregoing

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

"CA" I. Approval to Enter into an Agreement with Blum and Shapiro Consulting, a Contract Alliance Vendor with the Massachusetts Higher Educations Consortium (MHEC), for a Finance/IT/Administration Study, for a Sum Not to Exceed \$33,500, as Budgeted in Line Item 01.940.9475.000, and Authorization of the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer, Each, to Take Any and All Such Actions, and Execute and Deliver Such Certificates, Receipts or Other Documents as May be Necessary to Carry into Effect the Foregoing

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

"CA" A. Town Council Minutes:

3. February 12, 2018 (Regular)

Ms. Van Slyke observed that she did thank Tom Gentz not only for savings Charlestown’s dark skies, but also for saving the Town money; she asked that her statement be recorded in the minutes. She stated that she also thanked Justin Vail, as his work on the ordinance was a very big job; she asked that her statement be recognized in the minutes. She noted that the minutes recorded her statement as being “the aquaculture use was permitted in a R3A” zone; she clarified that she objected strenuously to that and did not say that. She noted that there was great diligence to quote people who submit statements, which she expressed was a good thing, and requested that more detail from other’s statements be included, as there were many statements made that did not appear in the minutes.

Ms. Rhodes agreed.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

Motion to include the omissions, corrections and additional details in the March 12, 2018 minutes as requested by Ms. Van Slyke.

RESULT: APPROVED [3 TO 0]
MOVER: Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
SECONDER: Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
AYES: Denise L. Rhodes, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSTAIN: George Tremblay
ABSENT: Virginia Lee

"CA" C. Approval of the Following Events to Occur Within the Town of Charlestown Per RIGL §31-12-12(A):

- 1. Event: 2018 Pete Murphy Memorial New England Time Trial**

Event Dates: August 18, 2018

Route: from Switch Road in Richmond on to Route 91 East, Right on to Route 112 South, Onto Route 2 South, Right on to Route 1 South, Right on to Kings Factory Road, Onto Kings Factory Road in Richmond

JoAnne Stolle, of 305 Kings Factory Road, referenced the meeting of July 10, 2017 and read the following statement:

I was here on July 10, 2017 to ask you to seriously consider prohibiting the inclusion of children riding in this race on Kings Factory Road. Yet again, the event organizer has planned for a Junior Division to set off at the southern end of Kings Factory Road and ride the entire length, about 7 miles, to the race’s end, just south of Route 91. Last year the Junior Division ages were noted to be as young as 9 years old. We have lived in our home for 14 years; never, do we see children riding that road, and for good reason. Local residents know it to be unsafe for children to ride. The posted speed is 25 miles per hour; the actual speed is closer to 40-50 miles per hour. Often I have signaled and slowed to turn into my driveway with a car or truck very close behind, that swerves out into the oncoming lane, at a blind curve, to pass me. Poor lines of sight, curves and road width are only three of the reasons that make Kings Factory Road unsuitable for children to ride on. Like last year, this time trial will occur on a Saturday morning in August from 10 - Noon. That is one of the heaviest travel times during the week and year. Residents are heading out on errands all morning; vacationers are searching for the Burlingame Picnic Area or Campground, often towing boats or driving campers and stopping often at our home for directions. When I spoke at the July meeting, I had hoped to move this race off Kings Factory Road entirely. Since that seems unlikely, I implore to have the event organizer move the Junior Division either to Ninigret Park or onto Route 91, which is wider and has bike lanes on both sides of that road. For the Councilors who were not here at that July meeting, I spoke originally about riders who ride three and four abreast for the entire length of Kings Factory Road from Route 1 all the way to the end at Route 91 where their time is noted. Yes, they are instructed to ride single file, but I can attest that that is not what all riders do. Some riders may be more focused on the race and their time and less attentive to traffic. Perhaps event officials might travel the route during the race, if they don’t already do so, to see if in fact the riders are riding single file. I’m asking that this Council or the Police Department contact the event organizer and request that the Junior Division be relocated off of Kings Factory Road. Let us remember that this and many races are memorial races for a reason; memorial races, whether by auto accident or riders’ inattention, people are sometimes injured or unfortunately killed in these races. If we can prevent another person or child from being hurt, why would we not. The question was asked in July if the Town bears liability if someone is injured; our Administrator said the Town is not. I contend that this is not the most important question to ask; the vital question to ask is one of safety - does the route consider safety first? I strongly believe that this route is unsafe for all riders but most especially for children and youth. Please get the children off this road for this event and for all future bike races and timed trials. Thank you.

Ms. Van Slyke inquired whether there were incidents last year during this race; she remembered that the Police Chief was going to speak to the race organizers and that there were promises of signs. Ms. Stolle stated that she saw flaggers at RICAN and at the beginning of Kings Factory Road on Route 1; she was unaware if there were any injuries associated with the race and if the children were involved. She stated that apparently the race proceeded as planned. Ms. Van Slyke observed that Kings Factory was included in the “Guide to Cycling in the Ocean State” and was noted as a blue route, most suitable for bicycling. Ms. Stolle stated that she would contest that greatly, noting its narrow and windy nature. Ms. Stolle recalled that at the July meeting both Ms. Rhodes and Ms. Carroccia stated that they would not ride Kings Factory Road. Ms. Van Slyke acknowledged that these things happen, stating that she has ridden and that her son had been hit by a car in Belmont, MA, not as part of a race; she noted again that the road was included in the guide as a road best suited for cycling. She suggested requesting recommendations from the Police Department and requesting the sponsor to come to the next meeting for further discussion.

Ms. Rhodes stated that the children’s participation in this race were a big concern, considering the nature of the road. Ms. Stolle stated that the very least action to be taken, in common sense caution, would be to move the Junior Division off of Kings Factory Road; she stated that the road being a blue, approved bicycle route by the State was immaterial to her, citing the dangerous nature of the road and the tendency for participants to ride abreast.

Mr. Stankiewicz suggested that he could contact the sponsor to make them aware of the concerns; they can send a representative to the next meeting, modify or withdraw the application.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
SECONDER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

Motion to continue this matter to the April meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
SECONDER:	Denise L. Rhodes, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 8:55 PM

Motion to adjourn.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bonnie VanSlyke, Councilor
SECONDER:	George Tremblay, Councilor
AYES:	Denise L. Rhodes, George Tremblay, Bonnie VanSlyke, Julie A. Carroccia
ABSENT:	Virginia Lee

APPROVED April 9, 2018

Attest:

Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC Town Clerk