

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
Monday, November 2, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Town Councilor Peter B. Baute, Town Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste and Town Councilor Richard P. Martin. Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey is on vacation. Also present was Town Manager Nancy Dodge. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

Warden's Report:

First Warden Kimberley Gaffett reported on new legislation passed in Special Session, which increases the amount of power National Grid will be able to purchase from Deepwater Wind from the proposed wind power array adjacent to the Island, based on a more complete analysis of the wind resource. Instead of ten megawatts, 12 megawatts may be purchased. The number of turbines to be erected has been memorialized at 8. Also, a Stakeholders meeting of the Ocean SAMP will be held on Wednesday, to draft the tourism and recreation chapter of the Ocean SAMP document. A Special Financial Town Meeting will be Wednesday night in the School cafeteria. The practice of leaving surplus furniture on West Side Road is discouraged. Information is available at Town Hall regarding the Heating Assistance program and other energy conservation programs administered by South County Community Action Program.

Town Manager Nancy Dodge reported continuing progress with the Municipal Alarm System. Later this week a new receiver owned by the Town will replace the borrowed unit at the dispatch center. Installation of radio transmitting units will begin with Town Hall. An ordinance will follow.

1. Informational presentation re: Special Financial Town Meeting

- Proposed Old Harbor Dock Renovation Project Harbormaster Chris Willi explained the project and budget for the Old Harbor Dock renovation.
- Proposed additional North Light expenditure North Light Chair Robert Gilpin explained the need and budget for the North Light expenditure.

2. Receive and act on letter from Concerned Citizens About Lyme Disease re: Deer task force

First Warden Kim Gaffett said she set up a Town Council meeting on the Island with RI DEM's Associate Director for Natural Resources Larry Mouradjian, tentatively scheduled for November 19. Mr. Mouradjian has invited representatives from the Forestry Division and the Division of Law Enforcement. Ms. Gaffett sees the meeting as an opportunity to sit down together and exchange thoughts on many issues of mutual concern, including tick bourn illnesses and deer management.

CCALD asked the Council to appoint four of their members to a task force comprised of people dedicated to the goal of dramatically reducing or eliminating the deer herd as a way of reducing tick bourn illnesses. Ms. Gaffett suggested also appointing a Council member (she volunteered) and a hunter to the group. She is in favor of incrementally raising the deer take, using many different ideas. Dr. Baute suggested beginning with the four names forwarded from the CCALD.

Dr. Baute moved to appoint Rebecca Ballard, William Wilson, Patricia Doyle, and Mary Sue Record. The motion was seconded by First Warden Gaffett.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Torrey)

3. Receive and act on letter from Chris Warfel re: changes to the Shellfish Commission

Chris Warfel was present. He sent a letter asking for the appointment of a commercial shellfish or aquaculturalist to the Shellfish Commission, and to adopt two-term limits for the Commission. In response to questions from the Council, he said an active Shellfish Commission should be integral to health of the Great Salt Pond, and could coordinate with the many other groups that have been working for the Pond (Conservation Commission, Sewer Commission, Committee for the Great Salt Pond, ad hoc Pond Group). He said decreasing biodiversity, an anoxic layer of sludge near the harbor entrance area, and siltation in the inner ponds indicate a deterioration of the Great Salt Pond's health. He said the inner ponds have lost floral and faunal biodiversity.

He believes the situation calls for action and asked Council to create policy to expand the focus of the Shellfish Commission to include issues impacting the health of the Great Salt Pond.

First Warden Gaffett noted the Town's ordinances allow up to nine members on the Shellfish Commission, they now have seven. She suggested acting on the letter in December when annual appointments are considered. Mr. Lacoste agreed. The Council referred the issue to the Shellfish Commission for comment.

4. Receive and act on letter from the Sunfarm Oysters re: cultch collection at Town Beach parking area

Chris Warfel and Katherine Plunkett of Sunfarm Oysters were present.

Councilor Martin moved to approve the cultch collection program at Town beach parking lot, beginning today and ending no later than June 1, 2010, seconded by Councilor Baute.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Torrey)

5. Act on additions to Electric Utility Task Group Charge

First Warden Gaffett proposed an addition to the group's charge.

First Warden Gaffett moved to make the following addition to the EUTG's charge, seconded by Dr. Baute: "To partner with the Planning Board to develop an Island Energy Plan as envisioned in the Town of New Shoreham Comprehensive Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, addressing SF9 (Implementing Actions: Services and Facilities) and reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and advising the Town Council and the Planning Board about possible changes to the Comprehensive Plan regarding energy (generation, conservation, renewable, transmission/distribution, etc.)."

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Torrey)

6. Update on the Comeau/Hayden letter re: Sea Winds

The Town's land use attorney Donald Packer wrote a letter addressing abutters concerns. It is attached to these minutes.

7. Approval of Minutes: October 19, 2009, October 21, 2009, October 25, 2009

Ms. Gaffett moved to approve the minutes with minor changes. Motion seconded by Councilor Baute.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Torrey)

Mr. Martin abstained from consideration of the minutes of October 25 because he was absent from the meeting.

8. Review upcoming Town Council meetings schedule

The Council might meet with the DEM during the daytime on November 19. The next work session will be December 2.

At 8:45, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Torrey)

Minutes approved November 18, 2009

Fiona Fitzpatrick,
Town Clerk