

Town Council Meeting with Harbors Committee
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
Tuesday, June 22, 2010
7:30 p.m.

Present: Town Councilors present were First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Town Councilor Peter B. Baute, Town Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste, Town Councilor Richard P. Martin. Present for the Harbors Committee were Arlene Tunney, Pete Tweedy, Edwin Merritt, Gary Hall, and Denny Heinz. Also present were Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge, Finance Director Amy Land and Harbormaster Steve Land. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 7:30.

1. Meeting with Harbors Committee to discuss issues of mutual concern

Role of Harbors Committee: First Warden Gaffett answered questions from the Committee about their role. The Harbors Committee is one of the Town Council's advisory boards. In addition to specific duties in the Town ordinances and Harbors Management Plan, the Harbors Committee advises or assists the Council on harbors issues when requested, and takes the initiative to bring suggestions for innovations and harbors concerns to the Town Council. The Council creates town policy and directs the Town Manager to implement policy. The Town Manager may direct the Harbormaster to act to implement policy. Continuing good communication between the Harbormaster and Harbors Committee benefit everyone. The Harbormaster also works with the town solicitor and police to carry out policy.

Old Harbor Dock Policy: The Old Harbor Dock Policy was last revised in 2006. Pete Tweedy explained the Harbors Committee had identified areas in the policy that need change, and had decided to work on revisions after the Old Harbor reconstruction was completed. He said the new configuration of the docks might suggest policy changes. A brief discussion ensued. The Harbormaster and Harbors Committee will work on revisions to the policy this fall for consideration by the Town Council.

Old Harbor Construction Schedule: Town Manager Dodge reported a contract with Reagan Construction was signed yesterday. Reagan provided an acceptable bid for the Town's lumber and steel. Remediation of the contamination will begin October 12, followed immediately by construction work. Harbors Committee members expressed concern that the location and design of the Harbormaster's shack has not been settled. Ms. Dodge explained although the final location of the slab is dependent on Judge Gale's ruling in the triangle case, the size of the slab is known and Sam Bird's design has been sent to the town's engineer to create drawings and bid documents. The building must be approved by the Historic District Commission, the Planning Board and the CRMC.

Grant Application: Harbors Committee Chair Ted Merritt suggested the Town apply for this year's tier II Boating Infrastructure grant to fund upgrades to New Harbor (Harbormaster's shack, showers, toilets, dinghy dock and upgrades to the boat launch) but incorporating the Old Harbor construction project in order to use the expenditure as the grant's 25% match. A discussion of the merits of several sites for the proposed New Harbor facilities ensued. The Town Manager explained the Town has received the grant in the past; the application requires a very high level of detail. The mid-September deadline does not leave time to develop an application from a concept. The Council invited the Committee to return with options for amenities in New Harbor in preparation for future grant applications. An application to improve the boat launch was discussed.

Budget Process: Mr. Merritt said the Harbors Committee wanted to be more involved in developing the Harbors budget. The Council urged the Harbors Committee to act as an advocate for the harbors during the budget process by identifying revenues and cost savings. Mr. Merritt said the Committee would have more incentive to do so if some of the revenue was set aside in a Harbors enterprise fund. He asked the Council to meet with Newport's Town Manager to discuss the advantages of such a fund.

2. Set Public Set public hearing date for additions to New Shoreham General Ordinances re: Motor Vehicle Exemptions (Chapter 17 Taxation and Finance, Article II Exemptions)

Ms. Gaffett moved to set a public hearing date of July 21, 2010 for the hearing, seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

3. Award audit bid for FY 10 – FY 12

The Town received bids from two firms for the combined Town, School and Block Island Land Trust audit. Audits will be combined at the suggestion of the state auditor general. Finance Director Amy Land recommended the low bidder LGC&D.

Dr. Baute moved to accept the recommendation of the Finance Director to award the bid for Town, School and Land Trust audits to LGC&D, contingent upon review by the Town solicitor and approval of the state auditor general.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

At 10:05 a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Minutes approved July 6, 2010

Fiona Fitzpatrick