

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
Monday, October 04, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

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

First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Warden's Report: First Warden Gaffett reported the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Department paid the cost of the public dumpsters on July 4, the check was received and much appreciated. Block Island Resource Management absorbed the cost of the dumpster for last week's beach cleanup. Block Island Health Services Board hosts their annual art fund raiser tomorrow night.

Public Input: Rosemarie Ives criticized the Council's September 17, 2010 letter in support of Deepwater Wind's application to the US Department of Energy's loan guarantee program.

1. Proclamation honoring Chief Carlone

Chief Carlone was honored for his heroism in saving the lives of two fishermen clinging to their capsized boat in rough seas. He received a Senate Proclamation and a Town Council Proclamation, which is attached to these minutes.

2. Report on Old Harbor Dock project

Town Manager Dodge reported on the project. Environmental remediation of the contamination will begin next Tuesday. Hoffman Engineering has subcontracted Joe Sprague for excavation. Hoffman believes the remediation on Town land will be minimal, a swath from bulkhead to the hill. The work may take ten days to two weeks. Then Regan will demolish and remove the docks from the waterside. Pile driving and bulkhead reconstruction will take place from the waterside. Last week changes to the ramp configuration were suggested after a meeting with the Town Manager Jim Geremia, Regan and local fishermen. The engineer's sketch of the change has been sent to Regan for pricing. Some of the docks will be prefabricated on the mainland and barged to the site. Deauthorization of red breakwater is attached to a congressional act which has not yet come up for vote. The new west dock will be 15 feet wide. The Town is carrying money for dredging, which will be coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers. The ACOE will work on the east dock, beginning next fall, and may dredge the federal channel only or may dredge around east and bait docks. Discussion ensued regarding the budget.

3. Act on Harbor Committee recommendation re: grant for New Harbor boat ramp

Ted Merritt and Arlene Tunney were present for the Harbors Committee. The Committee recommended the Town pursue a grant to rebuild the boat ramp in New Harbor. The Town Manager explained the US Fish & Wildlife Boating Access grant requires a 25% match. The approximate cost will be \$48,000 - \$50,000; a match will be \$12,000 to 13,000. Mr. Merritt will try to obtain matching funds through private donations. The application is due in mid-December. Timing may allow matching funds to be budgeted in fiscal year 2012. Several people present spoke in favor of replacing the boat launch ramp.

First Warden Gaffett moved to proceed with the grant application to replace the New Harbor boat ramp, with the Harbors Committee finding donations for the 25% match or getting the match in the next budget cycle. Seconded by Dr. Baute.

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

4. Receive and act on letter from Chris Blane re: deer tag reimbursement and deer hunting on Plat 1 Lot 16

Chris Blane was present to ask that deer tag reimbursement be limited to does only. Those present agreed current deer management theory finds killing does more effective for herd reduction than killing bucks. Deer tags cost more for out of state hunters, but all will be reimbursed at the rate of \$12.50 for antlerless deer only.

First Warden Gaffett moved to reimburse hunters for deer tags for antlerless deer only at a rate of \$12.50 per deer. The motion was seconded by Dr. Baute.

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

Chris Blane also asked for deer hunting on Town property at Plat 1, Lot 16. Town Ordinance was changed a few years ago to permit limited deer hunting in the Town's property at Plat 1, Lot 16 in the Sachem Pond wildlife refuge. It is hoped that US Fish and Wildlife's future management plan will allow hunting on its easement over the Town's property, but for now the easement area may not be hunted. Mary Sue Record said the Deer Task Force is in favor of the hunt. Discussion ensued. Those present agreed a managed hunt modeled on the Town's practice at Plat 20, Lot 20 would help reduce the deer herd. The hunt would be administered by the Town Manager and precautions would include posting the area and advertising the hunt.

Dr. Baute moved to allow hunting on Town land at Plat 1, Lot 16 administered by the Town Manager in the same manner as on Plat 20, Lot 20 for the last two weeks of the 2010 – 2011 deer hunting season (February 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 28th), and to have the Town Manager return with any significant changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin.

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

5. Receive and act on letter from Electric Utility Task Group re: Raytheon grant application

Barbara MacMullan was present for the EUTG. Ms. MacMullan reported Raytheon is interested in developing storage systems for energy where a mismatch exists between supply and demand. Raytheon has applied for a grant from the Rhode Island Economic Development Council to study energy storage systems and how they would enhance the economics of renewable energy systems on Block Island. The goals are in line with the EUTG's charge. Ms. MacMullan was provided with an executive summary of the grant application after the EUTG's last meeting and wrote a letter of support on behalf of the EUTG which may be ratified or rescinded at the next EUTG meeting in two days when the grant application will be on the agenda.

Rosemarie Ives, present in the audience, said the letter of support should not have been sent until the grant application was discussed at a meeting. She asked the Town Council to review the process.

6. Receive and act on letter from the North Light Committee re: North Light relighting

The NLC's letter recommends relighting the North Light on October 23, 2010. Authorization has been received from the Coast Guard. Rob Gilpin and Gil Plumb have dedicated years to the restoration of the North Light, the Town Council spoke with appreciation for their service to the community.

First Warden Gaffett moved to accept the recommendation of the North Light Committee to relight the North Light as a private aid to navigation on October 23, 2010. Motion seconded by Mr. Martin.

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

7. Receive and act on letter from the Shellfish Committee re: temporary shellfish closure and aquaculture subcommittee

The Shellfish Commission will transplant quahogs in October when weather and tide are favorable. The bivalves will need two weeks to settle into Cormorant Cove and management areas 2 and 3 north of Andy's Way.

Dr. Baute moved to temporarily close shellfishing in the Great Salt Pond at the time of transplantation for two weeks in the areas affected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

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

The Shellfish Commission asked that Chris Murphy replace Kathryn Puckett on the Shellfish Commission's aquaculture subcommittee. Ms. Gaffett will follow up on the request.

8. Receive and act on letter from Historic District commission re: amendments to Historic District zoning

Martha Ball was present for the Historic District Commission. The HDC proposes amendments which would allow people to nominate their property anywhere on the Island for inclusion in the Historic District. Council asked for a legal review and recommendation from the Planning Board.

First Warden Gaffett moved to hold a public hearing on the proposal on Monday, November 1, 2020, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

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

9. Set public hearing date for proposed TNS Charter revisions

A public hearing on local ballot questions is required under state law. It will be an informational meeting to explain the proposed changes to the Charter to voters. Brief discussion ensued.

First Warden Gaffett moved to hold an informational public hearing on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

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

10. Receive and act on letter from Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County re: proclamation of October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month”

A brief discussion ensued.

First Warden Gaffett moved to adopt the proclamation of October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month,” seconded by Dr Baute.

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

11. Receive and Act on letter from John Cullen re: resignation from Island Free Library Board of Trustees

Ms. Gaffett moved to accept Mr. Cullen’s resignation and to send a letter of thanks, seconded by Mr. Torrey.

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

Ms. Gaffett noted there are now vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees, the Conservation Commission, and the Shellfish Commission.

12. Receive letter from RI Statewide Planning re: tolling of Planning and Zoning Board decisions

The letter explains the state legislature has extended the expiration dates of permits and approvals granted by local Zoning and Planning Boards. Permits and approvals granted on November 9, 2009 are automatically extended to June 30, 2011 or beyond. The extension also applies to the Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resources Management Council. No action was needed or taken.

13. Receive and act on letter from Board of Tax Assessors re: Property Roll abatements

First Warden Gaffett moved to approve the abatements as recommended by the Board of Tax Assessors, seconded by Dr. Baute.

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

14. Correspondence: Erik and Christina Elwell re: Champlins Resort and Marina – noise; Peter Greenman re: beach access; Entech Engineering, Inc. re: Interstate Navigation tariff rates re: renewable energy costs.

The correspondence was noted, no action was needed or taken.

15. Minutes: July 7, 2010 (closed), September 7, 2010 (closed), September 15, 2010

Ms. Gaffett moved to approve the minutes except September 7, 2010 closed session, with changes noted, seconded by Dr. Baute.

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

At 9:15 Dr. Baute moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Martin.

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

Minutes approved October 20, 2010

Fiona Fitzpatrick, Town Clerk