

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting/Work Session
Town Hall, Old Town Road
Wednesday, February 1, 2012
3:00 p.m.**

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Council members Richard P. Martin, Peter B. Baute and Kenneth C. Lacoste. Also present were Town Manager Nancy Dodge, Highways Supervisor Mike Shea and for the recording of minutes Deputy Town Clerk Millicent McGinnes.

Old Harbor Task Group members present were Margie Comings, Debbie Howarth, Kathy Szabo and Becky Ballard.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Meet with Old Harbor Task Force to discuss:

Ongoing and future Old Harbor projects

Ms. Comings stated that the Old Harbor Task Force is interested in pursuing non-profit status through 501(c)3 designation and creating an endowment fund for continued maintenance of Esta's Park. The Council and the Task Force members concurred that a setup similar to the North Light Association may be beneficial and such a scenario will be investigated. Mr. Lacoste suggested doing research to determine if donations to a 501(c)3 are still tax exempt even if they serve as a memorial, such as a bench with a memorial plaque.

Ms. Comings stated that the group wanted to shore up the benches on lot 146 with some sort of tread-ware in front of each bench. They also want to plant a buffer between lot 146 and the Interstate Navigation freight lot. Ms. Gaffett suggested placing bike racks in that area instead.

On lot 147, Ms. Comings stated that they wanted to work on a plan possibly including walking paths, benches and/or steps to the beach at the corner by the Surf Hotel. It was recommended that when considering lots 146 and 147, that they are seen as one contiguous lot.

Highways Supervisor Mike Shea stated that his department has cleared a path to the beach beginning on lot 146 ending at Surf Beach. He stated that he will add an arrowed "beach" sign at the head of the path.

Old Harbor Task Force structure (Planning Bd. subcommittee, TC advisory committee, independent not Town appointed committee, etc.)

Mission statement and/or charge to the committee

Discussion ensued regarding financial support vs. management decisions. It was noted that the Task Force should be reportable to the Town Council, not the Planning Board as currently structured.

Ms. Gaffett stated that she felt there was a consensus regarding the Task Force on the following items:

- Redesignate the group as a Town Council appointed board.
- Narrow the mission statement to concern it with "Town properties only."
- Assign the group to work on an overall design for lots 146 & 147.
- Ask the group to investigate a tax structure similar to the North Light Association/North Light.

The Council members concurred. These items will be placed on the next Town Council meeting agenda.

Other items of mutual concern

Ms. Comings expressed concern over the ongoing maintenance of Esta's Park. Ms. Dodge stated that it would fall under the Public Works Department and she is looking for a written copy of the maintenance plan.

Ms. Comings stated that the Task Force is concerned about possible damage to Esta's Park over the 4th of July. Ms. Gaffett suggested closing the park for the day. Mr. Lacoste disagreed. Ms. Gaffett additionally suggested constructing the judging bandstand in front of the park.

Act on solicitor fee request

Town Manager Dodge explained that Town Solicitors of Merolla & Accetturo asked for a fee increase in Dec. 2010 from their current rate of \$140 per hour, to \$150 per hour. They were asked to put it off and now it is time to revisit the request. She stated that finance Director Land confirmed that the increase (about \$3,600 for this fiscal year) can be absorbed within the two legal lines. She noted that the Town's Land Use attorney already makes \$150 per hour.

Based on Ms. Gaffett's question, Ms. Dodge confirmed that Attorney Katherine Merolla would continue to do the probate at no cost.

Dr. Baute made a motion to approve the fee increase for Merolla & Accetturo to \$150 per hour, effective February 1, 2012. Mr. Martin seconded and the motion carried.

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

Nays: 0

Report of Town Manager

- **Administration**
- **Finance**
- **Public Works**

Town Manager Dodge reported the following:

- A letter was received from RI Office of Energy Resources seems to state all work regarding the ESCO grant needs to be completed by a September deadline. Mr. Torrey will confirm the ramifications of such deadline with Jeff Broadhead of Washington County Regional Planning.
- A grant from the Department of Agriculture is available which may be appropriate for BIPCO regarding distribution or smart metering.
- The Town was awarded the \$16,000 grant regarding sea level rising. Planner Weidman will take the lead. She will be truthing maps and determining impact and possible mitigation of impact.
- New England Towers is tentatively coming to repair the tower at the police station on February 9th. It was suggested that the cost of scrap metal be researched to ensure it is not a better idea to demo the tower.
- The deed for the purchase of the Thomas property has been signed and should be recorded shortly. Monty Stover of the Medical Center will share his maintenance notes with the Town Manager and Highways Supervisor next week. A walkthrough of the building will also be scheduled for next week.
- The Block Island Land Trust deed for the easement on the south side of the Thomas property is being drafted.
- The Spring House pump house will be demolished any day.
- The Army Corp. is almost complete with their work on the east breakwall. They are laying planking today.
- The Town was awarded a grant for 4 electricity pedestals and a water line for the Old Harbor East Dock, but the grant has not yet been received. Ms. Dodge is looking into it.
- An update on the litigation regarding the transfer station and the triangle parcel will be on the 2/15 Council agenda.
- Today at 5:00 p.m. the Zoning Board will hear the Deep Water Wind application for the transmission system.
- The mooring bid has been tentatively awarded to Edwards Marine. The parties are negotiating.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Torrey made a motion to adjourn at 4:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Baute and carried.

Millicent McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: February 15, 2012