

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting/Work Session
Town Hall, Old Town Road
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
4:00 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 and for the recording of minutes Deputy Town Clerk Millicent McGinnes.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

Discuss plan for parking and/or reestablishing vegetation along Ocean Avenue and West Side Road (from Trim's Pond Bridge to Island Cemetery)

Ms. Gaffett noted that the sides of Ocean Avenue and West Side Road are in poor condition, as the grass did not take after the water line installation last spring. Town Manager Dodge stated that there will be reseeding again this spring.

Peter Mott, Jim Mott and John Mott, west side abutters of Ocean Avenue, were present and contributed to the conversation.

Animated discussion ensued regarding parking along the side of Ocean Avenue from Trim's Pond Bridge to the West Side Road. The following items were highlighted:

- The west side of the road with the telephone poles and dirt is an eyesore.
- The State owns 30 ft. on either side of the centerline of the road.
- Parking is needed along the road as commercial overflow, launch ramp and private mooring parking.
- Parking may be better suited for the east side of the road where there is curbing and pavement.
- The west side of the road can be cleaned up and allow parking with possible curbing, telephone pole/rope fencing and gravel.

Those present agreed to the following:

- Ask Town Manager Dodge to measure the paved road to determine whether parking can be accommodated on the east side of the road.
 - If parking can be accommodated, then the item will return to the Town Council for further determination.
 - If parking cannot be accommodated, then prepare a marked, graveled parking area on the west side of the road from the fire hydrant north of the Fort Island memorial back to the West Side Road intersection, installing signs forbidding parking from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., if the State Traffic Commission approves.

Discussion continued regarding parking along the area of Ocean Avenue from the West Side Road intersection to Payne's Dock. The Mott's noted that although parking signs do not allow more than 24 hour parking, vehicles park there for days at a time, in some cases all summer. Ms. Dodge stated that enforcement along that area can be stepped up. Those present agreed that enforcing the parking regulations would help the situation.

Update on ESCO program and discuss PPA potentials

It was noted that Jeff Broadhead and Dave Ward of the Washington County Regional Planning Council will update the Town Council at a meeting later in March and Johnson Controls will present figures in April.

Dr. Baute reported that he has done some research into power purchase agreements regarding solar projects. A power purchase agreement allows for the construction of an energy project by an energy company, of which they sell the power generated from the project to the property owner for a guaranteed price. There are no capital costs to the property owner and the installation is turned over to the owner when the agreement period expires. Dr. Baute distributed potential power costs under such an agreement, noting a potential savings. A power purchase agreement will be further discussed at the meeting with Jeff Broadhead and Dave Ward.

Report from Town Council appointee to Block Island Health Services Board

Millie McGinnes, the Town Council appointee to the Block Island Health Services Board, was present. She distributed a report and reviewed the document. The report is attached.

Report of Town Manager

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

Town Manager Dodge reported the following:

- Police Chief Carlone will be administering agility and written tests to twenty-three police officer applicants on Saturday.
- Town Engineer Geremia attended a meeting with the DEM re: proposed Narragansett parking garage and will continue to keep an eye on the project.
- The Planning Board has completed their work on the Energy Plan and will schedule a public hearing for April. The Plan should be in front of the Council for approval in May.
- The Trust presented a 12.8% health insurance increase for this year. Last year the Town entered into a 3 year agreement with the Trust who represented that increases will be about kept at about 5%. There is a conference call with the Trust and School Superintendent Bill Hicks scheduled for Monday.
- Negotiations with the Employees Union are on hold, awaiting a final number on the health insurance increase.
- There are conversations between the police department and the DEM re: part-time conservation officer funded by the DEM.
- Chris Blane reported that his unofficial number of deer taken through hunting on the Island this season is 179. Of that number: 12 were taken on Plat 1; 6 on Plat 20; and 118 were does.
- The Southern District Chamber of Commerce is awarding "40 Under 40": individuals under the age of 40 who make a considerable contribution to their community. Six Block Islanders are being recognized: Danielle Bates, John Bates, Recreation Director Robbie Closter, Cariona Corcoran, Jess Willi and Water Superintendent David Simmons. There will be an awards ceremony on March 29th at the Ocean House in Watch Hill, RI.
- There is and has been a working electric meter at the Transfer Station.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Gaffett made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and carried.

Millicent McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: March 21, 2012