

**Informational Notes**  
**New Shoreham Town Council at**  
**Block Island Board of Health Services Meeting**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**Monday, February 6, 2013**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Town Council members First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Kenneth C. Lacoste (who also serves on the BIHS), Town Councilor Sean McGarry, Town Councilor Norris Pike and Town Councilor Christopher Warfel. Present for the Block Island Board of Health Services were Cynthia Baute, Katherine Lewis, William McCombe, and Renwick Tweedy. Non-voting emeritus member Mary Donnelly was also present. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick took minutes for the Town Council.

**1. Meeting with Block Island Health Services Board of Directors: presentation by Dr. Michael Fine, Director of Rhode Island Department of Health “The Primary Care Trust – Block Island Medical Center as an example for Rhode Island” and discussion of issues of mutual concern**

Mr. Tweedy called the meeting to order at 1:00 for the BIHS. The Town Council was not called to order.

Block Island Medical Center Director Barbara Baldwin introduced RI Director of Public Health Dr. Michael Fine, who asked to address the BIHS Board and the Town Council because he perceives the BI Medical Center as a model for the future of primary care in Rhode Island. The Medical Center provides most of the primary and emergency care for Island residents and visitors. The DOH’s vision is a network of primary care facilities across the state that provide 90% of the care for their patients and are accessible to all; a network of primary care trusts that each serve 10,000 people, are staffed by four to eight doctors and additional nurse practitioners. He said the US spends twice the amount per person that other developed countries spend but the outcome is ranked 37<sup>th</sup>. He spoke about the economic benefits of preventive primary care that the RI DOH currently provides: screening for STD’s and HIV, immunizations for children and adults, stop smoking programs and public health advocates. Primary care and preventive care are effective and economical but far fewer doctors and businesses are entering the field. He spoke about the difficulties of providing primary care in an environment of patient needs, multiple payers, the needs of government and the medical environment.

A Primary Care Trust (PCT) would capitate with monthly payments by residents of approximately \$500-\$600 per year. There would be no cost for services. He said PCT could be public or private, for profit or nonprofit. Under the Affordable Care Act, Accountable Care Organizations (ACO’s), could be collaborative with PCT. ACO takes a premium and assumes a risk for care. They need to contract with specialists, hospitals, home health organizations and primary care organizations. They need ways to manage care so they can assume risk. The PTC takes that aspect away from ACO.

Dr. Fine said the RI General Assembly is expected to authorize a commission to study the proposal this session, legislation would follow. Discussion and questions and answers ensued. Dr. Fine left at 2:00. The BIHS meeting continued.

Minutes approved: March 6, 2013

Fiona Fitzpatrick, Town Clerk