

Correspondence

Letter dated December 4, 2012 to Nancy Dodge, Town Manager for Don Thimble re: Assessors Plat 5 Lot 1, Fred Benson Town Beach Septic Systems

Don Thimble, Wastewater Inspector for the Town of New Shoreham presented. Mr. Thimble expressed his concern of the vegetation growth over the drain field area at the Beach Pavilion. Mr. Thimble asked the Commission for their assessment of the plant root system growing in the reference area. He stated plants will need to be removed if the roots are more than 1 (one) foot 6 (six) inches deep to avoid growing into the drain field. Mr. Thimble discussed the long range plan of replacing the system. He also noted that the system will be checked for proper operation before the summer season.

Letter dated November 20, 2012 from Barbara MacMullan, Chair Block Island Land Trust re: Farmland Conservation.

The Commission was in receipt of the letter from Barbara MacMullan and a brochure on farmland conservation prepared by the Rhode Island Land Trust Council. The Commission review and endorse the concept of preserving working farms.

Letter dated November 21, 2012 from Fiona Fitzpatrick, Town Clerk re: Appointment to the Block Island Housing Board.

Mr. Hopf stated that he is interested in serving on the Block Island Housing Board as a representative of the conservation group.

Old Business

Beach Erosion SAMP

This item was tabled to next month's meeting.

Snow Fencing

Mr. Hopf suggested to the Commission to look at the installation of Narragansett's snow fencing. Mr. Phillips, Jr. discussed cutting the rolls of snow fencing in half. He spoke to Town Manager, Nancy Dodge regarding the loss of fencing from Hurricane Sandy. Ms. Dodge asked for the number of rolls needed for replacement. She will use the information for budget intentions. Mr. Littlefield discussed and explained the need for fencing along other beach areas.

Mr. Phillips, Jr. will ask Ms. Dodge for the timeframe for emergency considerations.

Update on Sewer Spill

Mr. Leeder attended the New Shoreham Sewer Commission Special Meeting on December 4, 2012 regarding the Sewer Spill on Ocean Avenue. Mr. Leeder explained the break was 19 to 20 feet below the surface. The Sewer Commission was not sure where or how the break occurred; however, they acknowledge the spill is under control.

2013 Annual Meeting Schedule

Mr. Hopf made a motion seconded by Mr. Littlefield to approve the annual meeting schedule for the Conservation Commission to meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Road as follows:

January 8, 2013	July 9, 2013
February 12, 2013	August 13, 2013
March 12, 2013	September 10, 2013
April 9, 2013	October 8, 2013
May 14, 2013	November 12, 2013
June 11, 2013	December 10, 2013

7Ayes (Phillips, Leeder, Slate, Littlefield, Mott, Hopf and Roosa) 0 Nays

Update on Tree Preservation and Protection Guidelines.

No action was taken.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57p.m. in a motion by Mr. Phillips, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Hopf.

7Ayes (Phillips, Leeder, Slate, Littlefield, Mott, Hopf and Roosa) 0 Nays

Respectfully submitted
Terri L. Chmiel
Minutes approved: January 8, 2012