

Minutes of a Town Council work session held September 22nd, AD 2011 at 6:02 o'clock PM in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 40 Commons, Little Compton, RI. Members present: Charles N. Appleton, Jr., Fred M. Bodington, III; Paul J. Golembeske, Gary S. Mataronas and Robert L. Mushen. Beach Commission Members in attendance: Patrick Griffin, Chairman; Arthur Jones, Joseph Rocha and William Ryan. Absent from the Beach Commission: Stephanie Manchester-Wilkie. Additionally in attendance: Police Chief Wordell and Fire Chief Petrin.

Discussion ensued between the Council and the Beach Commission concerning the over sight of the Beach and parking lot during off season hours. The Beach Commission Chair submitted copies of a correspondence from May of 2000 where the Emergency Management Director, Jane Cabot was informed of the standard operating procedures for the closure of the beach in a declared emergency.

It was noted that during Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene a few difficulties arouse. The Beach Commission hired a private security firm to stand guard at the entrance to the beach. During the event the firm moved further up South Shore Road causing a few parking and traffic issues. The Chief of Police noted that a private security firm does not have authority while in a public roadway and as a result they should have remained on the town beach. Concern was raised on how to avoid liability during times where the beach is not open for swimming due to specific emergencies. Signage and confirmation

from the RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust will be sought on how to best protect the town's liability.

All in attendance agreed that it would be in the best interest of the town to have the Council, Beach Commission, Police and Fire Departments agreeing on a set of procedures in advance of an emergency.

Pat Griffin noted that the commission was not happy to see another town employee quoted in the Sakonnet Times on specifics regarding the status of the beach as a result of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene. He asked that any future inquiries that relate to a matter the Beach Commission has jurisdiction should be directed to a member of the Commission.

Pat Griffin will draft potential language for new signs, Councilor Mushen will contact RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust for their input and Chief Wordell will be asked for his input on any matters that may need attention regarding security.

This portion of the meeting concluded with the Council moving directly into its regularly scheduled agenda for 7:00 PM.

Carol A Wordell

Town Clerk