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conclude, "It is incomprehensible that any state or town officials would decide any level of risk is acceptable."

Some writers detail perceptions of GZA's "downplaying . . . ignoring . . . failing to report" negative finds. Louise Brendlinger of West Reach Drive pointed out GZA's long list of disclaimers, and called for the firm's dismissal. According to her, the consultants who oversaw the Block Island landfill closure should be considered for Jamestown.

Donna Kane of North Main Road wrote that GZA has "flipped-flopped" on findings and that the Town Council "seems to be putting us all at risk."

Ellen Winsor of East Shore Road, another NECC leader, documented for DEM her findings about Cape Cod's high cancer rates linked to an EPA remediated landfill and failed closures elsewhere. She noted the evolution of principles adopted by international organizations of scientists promoting maximum precautionary measures whenever "an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment."

Kathleen Karl of Ranger Court, an attorney, cited engineering costs, plus expenses to defend or settle lawsuits if pollution spreads. Her letter to DEM says, "Regardless of monetary costs, my sincere concern is the health of all on our lovely island."

Saverio and Cheryl Rebecchi of Sail Street, of the Jamestown Shores, focused on the advocates' contention that the Jamestown landfill is "benign." They wrote: "A minefield is a minefield. The fact that there are less mines in our field does not make it less dangerous. In Jamestown, the mines are buried contaminants in the landfill. If any explodes and releases poisons, the people being harmed can be miles away." According to the Rebecchis, "The landfill was chosen as a matter of out of sight for aesthetic purposes. The landfill is not the last resort location."

Dennis Webster of Mount Hope Avenue, a former member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a leader in the defeat of the Taylor Point highway barn plan, calls in his letter for approval of the dual plan. He urged the DEM to include "your clear, unequivocal explanation why the garage will not threaten ground water (to) alleviate unfounded anxiety and reduce divisiveness."

Where in the World is the Jamestown Press?



Polly Hutcheson of Bayview Drive and her mother, Beechie Kampmann, a Jamestown summer resident, took the Press along on their visit to Kauai, Hawaii. They are under a banyan tree at the National Tropical Botanical Garden. This was the setting for dinosaur eggs in the movie "Jurassic Park."



Ron and Brenda Ratcliff of Jamestown took the Press to Japan in February while Ron was there to present a paper at a Naval War College conference hosted by the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Staff College. Ron is a professor at the Naval War College.

100 people attend north-enders' landfill presentation

By Dotti Farrington

Signaling for a new era of co-operation and finding of a suitable site for the town garage were among elements of the public forum conducted Sunday by the North End Concerned Citizens. Held at the Portuguese American Citizens' Club, more than 100 people attended the session, which was serious and civil.

The NECC is seen as the town's most persistent nemesis of the former landfill on North Main Road. Current plans call for its closure under the supervision of the state Department of Environmental Management. The town is then planning to build a new highway barn on the sight. Some officials on both sides talked of no longer being enemies. The public embracing was signaled by a flag of truce introduced by first-term Town Councilor Barbara Szepatowski.

"The town government is not your enemy. At least three of us are here. Town Administrator Bruce Keiser is here. I understand your anger, but there is no reason we cannot work together. We must talk, not accuse or fight." She and others were reacting to news a few days earlier that private water wells in the landfill area were found to be polluted. Attendees included state Rep.

Bruce Long (R-Jamestown, Middletown), who is working with Sen. Teresa Pavia-Weed (D-Jamestown, Newport) on state legislation to help residents here and elsewhere who have groundwater problems.

Even Norma Willis, a NECC leader who is talking about possibly taking legal action against the town, credited Keiser with talking with her about her well results. "I am so appreciative of Bruce (Keiser) calling and all he is doing. We all are so glad you're here. It is so nice to have a new sheriff in town."

Keiser responded immediately to receiving reports of the well contaminations by ordering retesting and more elaborate testing procedures as may be needed, and calling each homeowner about the test results. (See related story on page 1.)

Another garage site?

The landfill is not the only possible site for the town public works garage, according to Ellen Winsor, an NECC leader. The NECC led the fight against a barn plan for a lot abutting the landfill several years ago. The citizen

group has since worked for more monitoring at the landfill. During the past year, it led debate on use of the landfill itself for the barn, as proposed a year ago.

For at least 25 years, Town officials and residents have agreed that a new highway barn is desperately needed. However, they have not been able to agree where to locate it. The current garage at Fort Wetherill, with its dilapidated building, has been deemed to be too small.

Winsor said that about 2,500 acres, or 40 percent of the island's 6,200 acres are not developed. She said that of the approximately 150 town-owned properties, 30 have at least two acres — the size that town officials and consultants say is needed for the highway barn. She said that some 113 undeveloped private properties have at least two acres.

Winsor acknowledged that dozens of town properties are under an acre, and many of the town and private properties may have elements that make them unlikely for the garage. Then she asked: "Can't we find two acres elsewhere . . . more appropriate, without the risks" that the landfill

may pose? "We want them (public works employees) to have a new place," Winsor said. The landfill represents an issue of inanimate equipment versus health of the people, she noted.

Town committees over the years have publicly discussed about a dozen public and private parcels for the barn and repeatedly discarded those options. Town officials years ago recommended Lot 47, abutting the landfill, but that option was blocked. They next recommended Taylor Point, but that was rejected because voters thought the location was inappropriate and the proposed design too expensive. The town currently is promoting the landfill itself for the garage.

What's next

After a two-hour presentation by the NECC legal and engineering consultants, the group's leaders asked those who accept their findings to attend the next Town Council meeting, Monday, March 13, to support the NECC goals of more monitoring at the landfill and placing the new garage elsewhere.

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