

Commissioner Murphy resigns from HMC

By Sam Bari

After serving on the Harbor Management Commission for over three years, Commissioner Greg Murphy, representing the commercial fishing community, has sent his letter of resignation to the Town Council.

He announced his intentions to a full harbor panel at the commission's May 10 meeting.

Murphy cited the lack of time needed to do a proper job as his reason for making what he called a difficult decision. "I struggled with this for weeks," he said.

"But in fairness to the commission, my family, and the time needed to devote to my new business, I'm spread too thin to be effective on all fronts, and it's time to step down. The business is so demanding that I'm not even fishing this year. I am grateful for the success, but it comes with a price. I am also thankful for the opportunity to have served with such dedicated members. We accomplished a great deal together, and I am sure they will continue to serve the community well. I'll stay until a successor is named," he concluded.

In other business, Prim (Polly P.) Bullock represented the Bullock family in a request to waive the requirement to register family boats in the name of two trusts to give them the right to use moorings that are assigned to the trusts.

After a lengthy discussion, Commission Chairman Michael de Angeli determined that the request "was reasonable." With the support of the commission, he ruled that the Bullock family was within their rights to identify the beneficiaries of the trusts to allow them to use the riparian moorings that had been tied to the family property since 1988.

The moorings were initially registered to A. G. Bullock Jr. as Class 1 — Resident Riparian. In 2005, the moorings were reclassified as Class 3 moorings under the new Harbor Management Ordinance. De Angeli noted that since the moorings were first established as Class 1, the original rulings were grandfathered in and

are applicable now even though the moorings have been reclassified.

Harbormaster Sam Paterson reported that the East Ferry pumpout electrical problem was scheduled for repair. The West Ferry pumpout has a vacuum leak and the piping needs to be replaced. That pumpout is operable but suction is low, pumping at 12 pounds of pressure when it should be pumping at 15. The town is capable of repairing the pipe. Paterson noted that the unit needs a green light that would turn on when the pump is running. "The light is there, but it needs an electrician to connect the juice to the pedestal," he said.

Paterson noted that the harbormaster's vessel was out having its steering replaced and was expected back this week. He also reported that out of the 27 new mooring permits issued in the various mooring fields, only one mooring was installed in zone C.

Police Chief Thomas Tighe, executive director of the harbor commission, reported that the specifications for the new harbormaster's vessel were out and that quotes were expected back by May 22. He also noted that Aquidnick Mooring Company quoted \$1,619 as the installed cost of a new channel marker.

Harbor Clerk Paula Swistak reported that only 269 of 730 mooring applications had been processed. "Applications are due next week. It's a slow start for the season," she said.

Commissioner Rick Anderson reported that the Mooring Implementation Committee met with the state Department of Environmental Management on April 20. "The DEM wants the mooring field plan more clearly defined," Anderson said. "We discussed the 1,000-foot line for moorings, and they were pleased to find that no moorings were outside of the 1,000-foot line in any of the mooring areas," he noted.

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Jamestown on target for governor's statewide school science curriculum

Governor Donald L. Carcieri this week applauded the state Senate's unanimous passage of his legislation that will establish a statewide science curriculum for Rhode Island students. The Senate voted 34-0 in favor of the legislation.

The Statewide Science Curriculum Act requires the Board of Regents to develop a science curriculum that could then be utilized by all school districts in the state.

"Establishing a science curriculum for all Rhode Island students is an important piece in my plan to give our students the math and science skills they need to compete in a global economy. All of our high school graduates — whether they are going to college or into the workforce — must be challenged by a rigorous math and science curriculum," the governor said.

Jamestown School Superintendent Katherine Sipala said "there's a big push to improve math and science" for all students, and she saw the governor's science legislation as "the next step" in getting that done.

Sipala said Jamestown students, like all Rhode Islanders in grades 4 and 8, will be given state

testing in science for the first time in the spring of 2007, so the school has already been gearing up the science education in preparation for the state tests.

"We're in very good shape," Sipala said, adding that the Jamestown district adopted the GEMS-NET science curriculum several years ago through the University of Rhode Island, which started the process to get the school into a statewide cur-

riculum in science.

The Statewide Science Curriculum Act is part of Governor Carcieri's comprehensive education reform agenda, with a particular focus on improving the quality of math and science education. Establishing a statewide science curriculum was one of the key recommendations made last year by Carcieri's Blue Ribbon Panel on Math & Science Education.

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For the Record

Ron Parfitt of the Parks and Recreation Department was incorrectly identified in a letter in last week's edition of the Press.

An item in This Week in Island History for the week of May 11 from 50 years ago had an important phrase missing from a sentence. The sentence should have read: "The bill calls for the payments of \$270,000 over a ten year period in installments of \$27,000 annually."

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