

Many residents step up for new Wind Energy Committee

By Dotti Farrington

The Town Council Monday authorized the expansion of its new Wind Energy Committee from five to seven members because of the availability and willingness of at least 11 specially qualified residents to serve, and because of the growing interest in wind energy.

The four councilors attending the meeting agreed to the expansion even though Council President David Long and Councilman William Kelly spoke briefly about a generic preference for smaller committees. Council Vice President Julio DiGiando and Councilman Michael Schnack endorsed the expansion without caveat. Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski was absent.

Next Monday, Dec. 18, is the deadline for applications for the new committee. No members have yet been named. The appointment process allows the council to interview each applicant briefly before a regularly scheduled council meeting. The committee will include Town Planner Lisa Bryer and Public Works Director Steven Goslee as staff liaisons. Appointments for two year terms are expected in late February or early March.

Town Administrator Bruce

Keiser noted that the town was represented at a conference about wind energy in Rhode Island on Dec. 9 in Bristol, and a report was expected to be available soon.

Wind conference

Last week, renewable-energy groups from throughout Rhode Island met by invitation only to discuss wind energy. The meeting was hosted by Roger Williams University, where Lefteris Pavlides, a leading wind energy promoter in Rhode Island, is a professor of architecture.

Several communities are considering wind-energy options. They include Bristol, Portsmouth, Warren, South Kingstown, and Westerly. Interest in Jamestown and elsewhere has increased greatly since Portsmouth Abbey recently installed the first large wind turbine in Rhode Island.

The goal of the conference was to form a clearinghouse for information and guidelines about building turbines. Goals for the alliance would be to collect data about municipal energy needs and determine how wind energy might be used. The work is expected to take about a year.

Local status

In October, the Jamestown Town Council ratified a proposal made independently by two groups of residents to explore wind-energy options for municipal needs, with a possible savings of \$200,000 a year in electricity costs for the island.

Council President Long called the concept "an incredible idea on so many levels. I'll be so proud of Jamestown if we do it."

Council Vice President DiGiando said, "This is an opportunity to

provide the town with a 21st-century infrastructure." He noted that wind energy ties in with general town goals of "going green" in terms of money savings and environmentally creative practices.

Spurring Jamestown's look at wind energy in October were Robert Bowen and William "Bucky" Brennan.

Bowen presented the town with a report about the technology, with options and possibilities. The report focuses on an installation of possibly only one device to create energy mainly for municipal buildings.

Brennan reported to develop data for harnessing wind energy for wider uses, possibly on a state-wide basis. He talked about the installation of two or more devices.

State grants of up to \$25,000 and requiring a local contribution of \$5,000 are available to develop wind-power studies or operations. Possible sites already being considered are town-owned parcels at Taylor Point and Fort Getty.

Local musicians play holiday tunes

"Glad Tidings," a CD of traditional holiday music, played by the Parallel String Band & Friends, is now available at the Secret Garden and at Jamestown Hardware.

The CD was produced by Matt Bolles of Jamestown and Lisa Schmitz of Hope Valley, and features Bolles on vocals and bass.

The CD contains 12 classic Christmas tunes, like "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," and "Joy to the World," all interpreted by banjo, fiddle, mandolin, percussion, Irish whistle and vocals.



Winners in the annual holiday decorating contest sponsored by the Quononoquott Garden Club include, in front, Michael Dwares of the Jamestown Oyster Bar, Betty Ann Taylor, of the garden club. At rear are Laura Brown, of the Cathryn Jamieson Salon, Martina Baugh and Patti Campo of Conanicut Marine Ship's Store and Chandlery, and Gloria Westlake, president of the club.

Contest winners announced

The Quononoquott Garden Club has announced the winners of the 2006 Holiday Decorating Contest. Those selected, all on Narragansett Avenue, created original Christmas decorations that are as beautiful in the daytime as they are at night.

First place was taken by the Cathryn Jamieson Salon for its silver and red bows on green garland and swags, and white-lighted reindeer. Laura Brown of the firm created the display.

Conanicut Marine Ship's Store and Chandlery captured second place with a scene depicting a Christmas-decorated living room with fireplace and mantel with red stockings, and a wreath, and


two Alberta spruces with white lights. Martina Baugh and Patti Campo worked together on the display. Honorable mention went to the Jamestown Oyster Bar for its decorated window boxes of golden reindeer, flocked miniature Christmas trees, white lights, and greenery adorned with red and gold ribbon that was conceived and rendered by Sandy Dwares, one of the restaurant's owners.

The Quononoquott Garden Club and its President Gloria Westlake thank all who participated in making Jamestown look its holiday best. The judging was difficult because everyone put so much effort into their creations.

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