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Letters

Continued from page 6

really need another agency, group or individual reviewing plans for a particular project? As of right now there is the possibility of a single project being reviewed by the building official, the planning director, the zoning board, the planning board, CRMC, DEM, DOT, and possibly the Narragansett Indians. Now we want to add to the mix EPA?

What would EPA do for us? In effect a duplication of DEM. But, in reality it would just further delay the project. It could also interfere with our plans for affordable housing by getting the federal government involved. Do we need another layer of government that would further delay projects? Not when it takes us over 25 years to build a town hall. Twenty years later we still don't have a highway garage. It should also be noted that the individuals who initiated this request did so, as stated in their letter to EPA written by the consulting firm they hired, because of their concern about locating the highway garage at the former landfill.

The second letter in some ways is more baffling. The writer concerns himself with the location of the highway garage. Because of my past experience of working on EPA-designated Brownfield projects in reviewing permits, procedures, practices and site inspections of numerous landfills I believe the proposed plan for locating the highway garage on the footprint of the former landfill would actually protect the ground water and prevent possible pollution of the adjoining wells by providing an impervious cover of either blacktop or concrete.

However, this particular writer says, "Because I rely on well water, I do have a problem with taking unnecessary risks with our fragile bedrock aquifer." His solution then is to locate the highway garage adjacent to the water shed where, by using his line of reasoning, the only thing that we would pollute there is the town reservoir. The writer also indicates that locating the highway garage in this location would somehow help the rate payers by adding 10 percent more users. In fact, there are just about 100 homes in those areas by extending the water lines to those homes along East Shore Road and into the neighborhoods east of that road. That is actually only about 7 percent.

Hmm, a house with a minimum of a 100-foot frontage would be

charged about \$200 a foot for the installation of the water line equaling \$20,000 then an additional \$3,000 to hook up to the line and then pay the going water rates. I can just envision the residents in those neighborhoods lining up to get town water.

As I said before, what's wrong with this picture?

**Bill Kelly, member
Town Council**

**Affordable housing
not needed here**

I would like to address the editorial that Publisher Jeff McDonough wrote in the Jamestown Press Feb.1. There are a few points that I do not agree with, and some that I do.

First, Mr. McDonough says that the words affordable and housing are "laughable" on Jamestown... so I ask why is it that he thinks this way? He implies that young adults who make an honest living, such as teachers, carpenters, electricians or even plumbers can't expect to live here in Jamestown... so what!

As a young adult, I wanted to live on Jamestown in a mansion, but I knew that is not within my means to do so! So I worked hard and saved for many years, and earned the right to live here by buying a home here... Why should we hand it to someone that can't afford it?

Also, why does someone's profession have anything to do with being able to live here on Jamestown? There are lot of folks on this island, young and old, devoid of their profession, who work their tails off to live here... and yes, some are electricians, carpenters, teachers, plumbers etc.

Mr. McDonough, I have lived within my means my whole life, and if I could not afford to live in certain places, towns etc., guess what? I didn't live there... plain and simple. If people can't afford to live here or anywhere for that matter, then look elsewhere to live... within your financial means.

Why do we need affordable housing here on Jamestown? I know why. The town of Jamestown can and does continue to obtain certain state and or federal funds... being an island has nothing to do with it! So what if Jamestown has half of the number of affordable housing units that the state of RI deems necessary... doesn't mean we need them or more of them for that matter.

If Jamestown doesn't have the "necessary" affordable units, what happens? The state sinks the island

of Jamestown? No, our town taxes will go up... what else is new? Tell me something I don't know! But don't sit here and tell us that we need it! We don't!

What we probably won't get are certain funds from the state or federal governments... which is fine by me... the less government intervention the better for all of us... besides, they already get enough of all our money every day.

Mr. McDonough then says that these are not new problems... and that the islands like Block Island, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket have similar problems, and that they have become playground's for the rich... again, I say so what!

That's their problem, not Jamestown's. I don't know if Mr. McDonough has noticed or not, but the last time I looked there were not any bridges connected to any of those islands mentioned above. they are in the true sense islands where you either fly or take a ferry to them... here on Jamestown there are two bridges in and out of town... people can come and go as they please. and if they can afford it they can live where they want.

Again, I certainly don't expect affordable housing because I can't afford to live here.

For the people who want to live on Jamestown... then by all means please do so... I say Welcome! But you have to actually work and work harder and save the money to do so... it used to be the "American Way"... do not expect hand outs for housing here or anywhere. This is what the state of RI and the town of Jamestown are promoting, so we can get more funding the more we build these affordable units. People need to make it affordable for their family by their efforts at work, not because the town of Jamestown and the state "deem" it so.

There is no such thing as a free lunch... somewhere we have to pay. I do agree with Mr. McDonough on a real estate transfer tax should be implemented here for open space, water concerns, sewage, town barn etc.

He is correct that it is ridiculous that transfer taxes will depress the real estate values and choke sales here. What is really going to effect the town of Jamestown's real estate values is building more affordable housing.

The town has been not been able to figure out the water issues here or the highway barn for many many years... why should we believe they can figure out that we need more affordable housing?

Hello... is anyone home?
**Peter Salvatore,
Jamestown**

Letters continue on next page



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