

Planning

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tion," he said.

Powers addressed the town's request for a charrette, adding that not everyone had the same understanding of the term. He explained that a charrette takes the normal sequence of a project and compresses it into an intense process. "The idea is to create a public event that people know about, so they will stop in," he said.

Town Planner Lisa Bryer, who served on the search committee, noted that the choice of consultants was an easy one to make. "This group is very connected with new urbanism, the most forward thinking urban planning," she said.

The study will start with the downtown district and expand out to the residential areas, according to Bryer. "I don't expect many changes happening outside that area," she added.

Russell Preston of Cornish Associates, a partner in the proj-

ect, said a main goal was to "get people who don't normally show up to these things to come." Preston voiced the need to register concerns by locals, such as those who do not want to be told what to do with their property, and others who want to preserve a certain look.

Commissioner Richard Ventrone asked if requesting a moratorium on building until completion of the project was appropriate. "It may be a draconian thing to do," Powers responded.

Commission Chairman Gary Girard pursued the suggestion, and reasoned that the project would take up much of the commission's time. He said a moratorium would only be for a few months, adding, "We're talking about from now until December."

The consultants continued to resist the idea of putting a hold on construction, but agreed to at least consider the thought. "In my view, you are starting off with a negative," Powers said.

The commission went on to

discuss the accommodation of affordable housing into the village design. The town planner mentioned the possibility of a special development district.

Affordable housing does not need to be a bitter pill to swallow, but something more creative and attractive, Powers noted. "Our job is to show how increased density can be beautiful."

The commission agreed to target the week of Oct. 15 to 19 for a five-day intensive on-site workshop that will be open to the public. "This is a process we think will create a lot of excitement," Powers added.

The award-winning urban designers come to the island with a price tag of \$63,000.

In other business, Commissioner Victor Calabretta moved to recommend approval of a downtown land development project, which the commission unanimously approved. The plan, submitted by applicants Allen and Nancy Randall, includes moving the house located at the corner of

Narragansett and Howland Avenues to the rear of the property and construct a new commercial building in its place.

In an unrelated matter, Girard reported he attended a recent Harbor Commission meeting, which was "very enlightening." He noted surprise that the Harbor

Commission had not yet acknowledged the Planning Commission's role in preparing land side facilities, referring to recent discussions about Head's Beach. "Once it touches land, it's our territory," he said.

Rates

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size, plus an additional \$3.43 to \$13.03 for every 1,000 gallons over 20,000 gallons used. Those numbers will increase by 15 percent to approximately \$211 to \$1,752, respectively for minimum advance per year, and \$4.22 to \$16.03 per 1,000 gallons for excess water use. Meanwhile the town's sewer rates will also increase by 23 percent across the board.

The rate increase, which will go into effect in time for the next water and sewer bill to be issued on Oct. 1, is needed in order to meet the town's commitment to develop a long-term solution to protect the island's water supply according to town officials.

"This is a classic case of being caught between a rock and a hard place," Councilman William Kelly said.

According to council President David Long, the recommended rate increase was made based on data submitted at the request of a previous town council several years ago when the island was faced with critical water supply shortages and an aging infrastructure.

"We are where we are," Long said. "Eight years ago, the town was running out of water." Now, Jamestown is considered to be a model for its conservation efforts.

In other news:

- Department of Public Works Director Steve Goslee reported that pumping at the town transfer station was up over last month and up over the same period last year.

- Rainfall was below average for the third straight month and as a result, the North Reservoir had fallen 28 inches below the spillway.

- Painting on the town's new water tower is expected to wrap up Friday or Monday depending on weather.

- Commissioners also approved an application of Rosemary Tutsch for utility service expansion and change of use at 123A Narragansett Avenue for a planned hair salon and awarded the lease of a town housing unit at 4 Grinnell St. to Pierre and Michelle Pages.

'Nutcracker' auditions scheduled

The Island Moving Co. will hold auditions for children's roles in its holiday production, Newport Nutcracker at Rosecliff, on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Island Moving Co.'s studios at 3 Charles St. in Newport.

Auditions will be at 3 p.m. for children ages 8 to 11 and at 5:30 p.m. for children 12 and up.

The Newport Nutcracker at Rosecliff is a full-length ballet set in the beautiful surroundings of Rosecliff mansion on Bellevue Avenue in Newport. Performances run from Nov. 23 to Nov. 30. For more information, call 847-4470.

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