

LETTERS

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rard, I reported that although I was absent from their June 4 meeting, it had come to the Planning Commission's attention that at their prior meeting the harbor commission had engaged in some discussion about the possibility of additional moorings, and related need for a pump-out, at Head's Beach. I reported to the harbor commission that there is a "Master Sub-Division" deed on file with the town that states that residents of the Shores have complete access to lots one through eight for "swimming and bathing purposes only." I told the commission that the deed could be found in the Jamestown Registry, Book 51, page 357.

The purpose of providing this information was to assist the harbor commission in their discussions relating to Head's Beach that appeared to include possibilities for development, as quoted in the June 21 issue of the Press, that were expressly forbidden by the terms of the Shores deed. At the following Planning Commission meeting on July 18, I reported that the harbor commission had discussed the possibility of additional moorings and a pump-out at Head's Beach and that I had attended their July 11 meeting and informed them of the restrictions within the Shores deed.

It should now be completely clear that at no time did I report that the harbor commission wanted to add moorings and a pump-out. Rather, in my official role as liaison to the harbor commission I was reacting to discussions that had been held. Unfortunately, my communications with the Harbor Commission have been inaccurately reported and mischaracterized as spreading misinformation. I did not initiate the discussion, I responded to it.

As for my sporadic attendance to harbor commission meetings: several months ago I told Chairman Girard, that due to my other volunteer commitments to the town, both as an active EMT in the Jamestown Emergency Medical Service, and as member of the Planning Commission, I would like to step down as liaison to the harbor commission. At that time Mr. Girard asked me to stay on in that role, assured me that my attendance at every meeting was

not required, and stated that I only needed to address the harbor commission on issues as they arose. Apparently, either Mr. Girard did not remember this conversation when asked about my attendance by Mr. Bari, or Mr. Bari chose not to report it. Regardless, it is not necessary for Mr. Girard to "... talk to Ventrone about his poor attendance record." That conversation was held months ago and was initiated by me. If Mr. Girard now feels that the liaison must attend every harbor commission meeting, I will happily step down as I have previously requested.

Since moving to Jamestown in 2000, I have demonstrated a deep and abiding interest and concern for the well-being of both the citizens of Jamestown and for preserving the precious and endangered character of this community and I defy anyone to question my service and commitment. It is deeply troubling, and I never would have thought it possible, to find that I am now under attack for presenting facts to the harbor commission. I will, of course, continue to volunteer in this community as I profoundly care for the ineffable quality that makes Jamestown such a special place. Unfortunately, I am now painfully aware that sincerity does not immunize me from petty politics.

Richard Ventrone
Member, Harbor
Management Commission

Not allowed to speak her mind

On Aug. 8, for the very first time, I chose to attend a Harbor Commission meeting. I was more than disappointed with the way in which the meeting was conducted by Chairman Michael de Angeli. I am a resident of Jamestown Shores and many of us who live in the Shores feel that we must be watchdogs to protect our rights, because we feel that our issues are often downplayed or even overlooked by town officials. One of our rights is to be able to attend open town meetings and voice our opinion.

The Harbor Commission meeting was a perfect example of why residents of the Shores feel they are not treated fairly. The discussion concerned whether the moorings off Sunset Beach, sometimes called Head's Beach, will be designated as a mooring field. We

have many concerns regarding this issue, but I learned at this meeting that concerned residents cannot speak their mind, because we are "wasting Michael de Angeli's time."

During the open forum, I was recognized to speak, but I was completely cut off and not allowed to finish any of my thoughts or my statement before Mr. de Angeli simply dismissed me and asked for other opinions. Apparently, Mr. de Angeli felt he had heard my issues previously. I am not sure how that could have happened, since I have not attended a meeting before this. Mr. de Angeli was cocky, condescending and rude.

Mr. de Angeli believes that calling Sunset Beach a mooring field is "just a designation." We in the Shores do not believe that. He also went on to say that "he cannot keep everyone happy," and that his job is to "assign moorings to the long list of people who are waiting for them." With that as his job description, we in the Shores need to keep a close eye on mooring fields that will be "just designations," in the future. This is exactly why Shores residents must go to the open meetings and let our feelings be known.

I thought that anyone could attend an open meeting and state their views. Apparently, this is not the case if the meeting is run by Michael de Angeli. At the end of the meeting, he began to apologize, but at the end of his statement he said, "But it doesn't matter, because I know what your concerns are." Really? How could that be? I was never allowed to state my viewpoint. Apology not accepted.

Everyone has the right to voice their opinion, even if it is repetitious of someone else's remarks. The chairman of the Harbor Commission should have the decency to allow people to speak their mind.

Dr. Kristin Kennedy
Lugger Street

Head's beach deed should rule

At the July 11 meeting of the Harbor Commission, I expressed the concerns of the Jamestown Shores Association regarding the proposed mooring site at Head's Beach (Jamestown Press, June 21, 2007). Following my presentation and unaware of his intent to comment or of the content of his

comments, Mr. Ventrone produced and read from a Jamestown deed (Book 51, Page 257), which designates Head's Beach lots 1-8 as a "swimming and bathing" area for Jamestown Shores property owners. Mr. Ventrone did not fuel Jamestown Shores residents' concerns. Mr. Ventrone presented information necessary for an analysis of the proposal. Mr. Ventrone did not, at any time, discuss this matter with the Jamestown Shores Association membership. Our organization took a stand on the issue based upon articles in the Jamestown Press.

We thank Mr. Ventrone for producing the deed for Head's Beach, which legally supports our posi-

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