

## Port

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matter was still under review by CRMC. According to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, though a vegetation-restoration plan had been submitted to CRMC officials by the property owners, the matter remained unresolved.

Accordingly, Keiser advised that the town wait until the CRMC dispute is resolved before taking any further action.

### Highway barn update

Keiser reported receiving several responses from the town's Request for Qualifications for engineering work on the proposed facility.

Keiser also said that he had met

with Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) Executive Director Earl "Buddy" Croft with sample materials and received a "very positive response." RITBA, which had yet to formally approve the sale agreement for a piece of property on Upper Taylor Point critical to the town's highway barn plan, was scheduled to take the matter up at its October meeting.

### Former town office space to be rethought

Bruce Keiser reported on Monday that the town was preparing to resume recreation classes at the town-owned Jamestown Country Club facilities, which had served as the temporary town hall.

However, that use would likely

not last long. According to Keiser, the town has received several inquiries from local business owners about the possibility of converting the space into offices or even a restaurant facility. According to Keiser, the town could issue a Request for Proposals in several months.

### Town Sealer of Weights and Measures steps down

After fifteen years of service, Jamestown Sealer James McLoughlin is stepping down from his post. McLoughlin, who as Sealer had been responsible for maintaining the integrity of the town's measuring mechanisms such as gas pumps and grocery store and pharmacy scales, notified town officials of his resigna-

tion earlier this month.

According to Rhode Island law, each town is required to appoint a state-certified Sealer in order to conduct yearly tests of island measuring devices. McLoughlin was appointed to his post in 1991. Though no Jamestown residents are currently certified by the state, the town has expressed a desire to appoint an island resident in future months in order to fill the post.

### Harbor commission work session

After a review by town officials, the town administrator reported that the Harbor Commission budget is intended to be determined in the general town budget and is therefore subject to council approval.

Keiser also reported on the outcome of the town's Harbor Commission-Town Council work session.

### Dutch Harbor Boat Yard lease update

Keiser reported that the town had been in receipt of an additional payment from the owners of the Dutch Harbor Boat Yard, as well as a proposal to complete payment of the remaining balance on what had been a \$27,009 debt owed to the town in lease payments and other costs.

While the receipt of payment was welcomed, Keiser recommended that the town "take an in-depth review of the situation" in order to determine the best future course for management of the town-owned West Ferry property.

### Progress on Jamestown Shores tax lot sales

Titles to 24 parcels in the

Jamestown Shores have either been acquired or petitioned for in Newport Superior Court, according to a report submitted to town councilors by Keiser.

The number represents approximately 25 percent of the total lots eligible for tax sale.

Keiser reported that the town was "making good headway" thanks to the work of former Town Solicitor Larry Parks, who had been retained specifically for expediting the town's acquisition process.

The process, aimed at taking possession of dozens of tax sale lots on the island's north end for the purpose of open space preservation, began earlier this year and is expected to take several more months to complete.

### In other business

• A robust crowd turned out for the first meeting of the town council at the new town hall Monday. Those in attendance were greeted with hot cider and refreshments and an ebullient Council President David Long. "What do you think?" Long asked. The crowd, which totaled approximately 65, responded with applause.

• Councilors approved union contracts for IBPO and NAGE #69.

• Approved a motion to set Alcohol Beverage License limits for 2007-2008.

• Town Administrator Bruce Keiser reported that plans for a joint school committee-town council budget workshop would be finalized soon. A date of Oct. 29 had been proposed.

• Also in the works is an open house for the new Town Hall.

## Wind

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all investment of \$25,000. Bowen replied that the town would be laying the groundwork for the development of a more comprehensive study. In addition, with town backing, Bowen felt that it would make the process of obtaining additional funds easier.

In addition to town funds, committee members are also exploring the possibility of securing private and public sources of funding, such as grant awards and state or federal loans. According to Bowen, members of the committee are scheduled to meet with the governor's office this Friday to discuss possible funding sources.

### Lot 47 offer rejected

Town Councilors unanimously rejected an offer to purchase Lot 47 on Monday.

The one-time proposed highway barn site, which had been the subject of fierce debate for island residents, had been the subject of a Request for Bids following an offer of purchase by a neighboring homeowner, which would have helped off-set the cost of the town's highway barn project at Upper Taylor Point.

The town officially received an offer of \$150,000 to purchase Lot 47 for restricted passive use in August with conditions that the town abandon both Cedar Street and the

lower portion of Prospect Avenue in order to create a unified parcel. However, that bid, according to town councilors was approximately \$140,000 less than the appraised value of the property.

The potential to use funds from the sale of Lot 47 had been used during the debate over the location of the highway barn facility as a way to offset the projected higher price tag of the Taylor Point facility.

Despite their decision, councilors lauded the offer as a good-faith gesture that helped move the highway barn project to a vote.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said that while rejecting the sale of the property could impact the town's total \$1.5 million budget for the Taylor Point facility, maintaining a town presence at Lot 47 was beneficial.

### Advocates argue against NK fishing pier

Members of a recently-formed citizens' group argued against the construction of a fishing pier on the North Kingstown side of the old Jamestown Bridge on Monday.

Anthony DeLuca, of Saundertown, and spokesperson for the North Kingstown Coastal Preservation Association (NKCPA) argued that construction of a fishing pier in close proximity to the new Jamestown Bridge represented a potential calamity for the state in the event of a hurricane.

Describing the proposed pier as a potential "battering ram" and an "inevitable hurricane-driven"

consequence, DeLuca urged town councilors to draft a resolution expressing the town's opposition to the project.

Donald Kern, also of Saundertown, and a member of the NKCPA, echoed DeLuca's sentiments. According to Kern, a retired engineer and Harvard and MIT graduate, "building a fishing pier in the location of the old bridge's trestle section would reintroduce the risk of serious damage to the new bridge as a result of the fishing pier being driven into the new bridge by a hurricane surge."

Additionally, Kern and DeLuca asserted that it was the belief of the NKCPA that a weighted fishing line could "strike vehicular traffic" traveling on the new Jamestown Bridge causing potential harm should the line be cast from the north end of the proposed pier structure.

As Saundertown residents, both DeLuca and Kern acknowledged their proximity to the proposed pier, however argued that the issue was not limited to North Kingstown.

In a memo entitled, "The Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge: Every Rhode Islander's Back Yard!" NKCPA members assert that the economic impact would be "catastrophic" for the entire state.

The North Kingstown Town Council expressed their opposition to the pier through a resolution passed on July 23, 2007. Jamestown town councilors did not indicate whether the matter would be further considered.


## Book signing scheduled

Island resident Jeanne Archambault will be participating in the Barnes & Noble Local Author Night at the Warwick store on Friday, Oct. 19. The event will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Archambault will be signing her two children's books: "Larry the Lawnmower" and "The Leaping Grasshopper."

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**'MEET THE  
CANDIDATES'  
FORUM**  
Wednesday, October 24, 2007  
7 p.m.

The Jamestown Shores Association cordially invites all Jamestown residents to attend, meet the candidates, listen to their comments and ask questions.

All candidates running for office have been invited.

Moderator: Dr. Kristin Kennedy

Coffee and dessert will be served

**PLEASE JOIN US!  
OPEN TO ALL!**

Sponsored by: Jamestown Shores Association  
Charlotte Zarlengo, President  
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