

Construction approved near watershed area

By Michaela Kennedy

The Planning Commission unanimously endorsed a development plan for construction of a house near the watershed area on North Main Road. Conditions of approval listed at the Oct. 3 meeting highlighted adherence to watershed protection standards.

John Murphy, the attorney representing applicant Patricia Ouimette, noted that the lot was substandard with a grandfathered clause. He also noted that the state department of environmental management approved an individual sewage disposal system for the property. Murphy confirmed the lot was not in a watershed area.

Commission Chairman Gary Girard noted that the property was in a zoned RR-200 district, "which is why it requires review."

In other business, the commission agreed to extend review of the development plan for a major land development project at 61 Narragansett Ave. The continuance may

allow simultaneous approval of the preliminary plan and the development plan, noted Town Planner Lisa Bryer.

Town Solicitor Christopher Orton reminded the commission that, according to the ordinance, if a decision on a development plan is not made within 30 days of a review, "it's an automatic approval of the plan."

Murphy, also representing the applicants Allan and Nancy Randall, expressed satisfaction with the public hearing. "Last time we left elated because not one negative thing was said about this project," he said.

According to the zoning ordinance, development projects in the downtown commercial district must seek approval for a preliminary plan as well as a development plan.

Allan Randall said he would like to light the parking area in some way. After he offered suggestions for low-wattage lighting,

the commission discussed over-lighting and zoning restrictions. Commissioner Richard Ventrone advised that diffused lighting should be installed.

Randall objected to diffused lighting since it would spill over into the abutting property.

Town Planner Lisa Bryer noted that shielded lighting is required by the ordinance, and installed lighting cannot shine beyond the property. She recommended that the outside lighting should be down-lit and shielded.

Bryer also recommended that the applicant be responsible for providing concrete sidewalks to replace the asphalt walks currently along Howland Avenue in front of the property.

Murphy suggested that the applicant revise the proposal and return with a lighting scheme that could be approved by the town planner administratively.

Questions arose about parking for the downtown development. Bryer challenged the size of a parking space on the street, commenting that a 16-foot space was too small. "In a parking study done a few years ago, the smallest on-street parking space was 18 feet," she noted. Commissioner Betty Hubbard agreed, also questioning the functionality of a compact car sized space on the street.

Commissioner Barry Holland defended the plan. "If it's a legal space by our ordinance, then I'm all for it," he said.

In new business, the commission continued a review of a two-lot minor subdivision for applicant Michael Dutton.

In old business, the board again postponed a decision on the appointment of a new liaison for the Harbor Commission.

Commissioners Gary Girard and Victor Calabretta were absent.

Free composting bags available

With the help of two local businesses: Jamestown Hardware and the Secret Garden, the Jamestown Department of Public Works is kicking off its fall composting program with the free distribution of composting bags.

These bags can be filled with yard waste and delivered by residents to the Transfer Station. Residents should note that they do not need a dump sticker to leave the composting materials at the transfer station.

The bags, provided through a grant from the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, are now available free of charge at both the Secret Garden and the Jamestown Hardware.

Public Works Director, Steve Goslee asks residents to be conscious of the fact that bags must only contain material that can be composted such as leaves, grass, small branches and shrub material. The residents can either dump the bags and reuse them, or just leave filled bags on the compost pile.

Band has new director

The Jamestown Community Band has selected Sarah Geremia as the new band director.

Geremia began her new post on Sept. 1.

Geremia has been studying music for several years and is currently a music teacher in the Newport School System.

Geremia plays saxophone and piano and has also studied composition with Joseph Parillo and Eliane Aberdam. She has played and performed in the URI Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Big Band, Honors Jazz Ensemble and a number of other groups.

Geremia holds a bachelor's of music composition and a bachelor's in music education from the University of Rhode Island.

She will make her conducting debut at the band's annual fall concert on Tuesday, Oct. 30, at the Portuguese American Citizens' Club at 7 p.m.



Sarah Geremia

For the record

In last week's edition of the Press a piece of property known as Plat 12, Lot 41, and owned by the Procaccianti Group, was misidentified as Beaverneck Farm. The Procaccianti property borders Beaverneck Farm to the south, but is not associated with it.

MURPHY'S LAW

Christopher Columbus was, undoubtedly, a great man. But Victor Calabretta placed him within a very human context in last week's *The Walrus Says* column.

How about those "men of God," priests and others, who presided over the burning-at-stake of aboriginal peoples encountered by the explorers? That conduct is an important part of the history of the 15th and 16th century expeditions to the "New World".

Want a refreshing dose of uplifting moral fortitude, delivered in the form of a "cannot put down" literary exercise? Re-read Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Boo Radley is a good man. This character teaches us not to judge by appearances.

And Atticus Finch, is a great hero, and a suitable model for all lawyers.

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ATTORNEYS

77 Narragansett Avenue

Jamestown, RI 02835

(401) 423-0400

e-mail: jamurphy@jamestownlawyer.com



DAVID DeANGELIS FOR TOWN COUNCIL

****JAMESTOWN ALERT!****

DID YOU KNOW....

1. As the **host community** for the RI Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA), operators of the Newport Bridge, the town of Jamestown supplies *police, fire and EMS protection to RITBA?*
2. Despite the town supplying these vital and costly services, *the RITBA enjoys paying no taxes to the town?*
3. In return for providing these vital and costly services, Jamestown receives and *annual payment from RITBA of just \$25,000 — DESPITE THE AUTHORITY'S OWN AUDITORS THIS YEAR REPORTING A \$6 MILLION SURPLUS!*

It seems the *EZ Pass is nothing new*. The Turnpike and Bridge Authority has been enjoying one — at our expense — *for decades*.

It is time that Jamestowners get what they deserve.

It is time for a "**SUPER EZ PASS**," a **DISCOUNTED TOLL FOR JAMESTOWNERS**. This is a **FAIR COMPENSATION** for **OUR** tax dollars that have been at work for the RITBA.

Stay tuned for next week's alert: **THE ISLAND'S FUTURE DESIGN: VISION OR ILLUSION?**

VOTE FOR DAVID DeANGELIS FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Paid for by the Committee to Elect David DeAngelis

sweet berry

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