

Plan

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be considered. One improvement offered was paved crosswalks, installed into the surface of a road. Galle noted the textural difference would train regular commuters to slow down in anticipation of the change.

The advisors noted that no path or trail exists between the schools. The plan showed an arrangement of boulders to mark an outdoor classroom setting. The ring of stones goes back to tribal times, they added. Clayton Carlisle, a volunteer representing the soccer association, suggested using boulders with signs on a proposed fitness trail to designate stations with fitness apparatus.

Close consideration would be given to tribal burial grounds, the team pointed out. They continued to explore ways of mounting equipment "to avoid excavation." The consultants also noted the plan called for restoration of playing fields.

As the discussion moved toward maintenance of new facilities, Galle held up a map which outlined where responsibilities lay for maintenance, whether they are with the school, the town, or another party. "The process has helped us identify who is responsible for what," Town Planner Lisa Bryer commented.

In 2005, Rolling Agenda started out as a bicycle advocacy group,

Bryer noted before the presentation. Their main focus was to build bike routes on the island. They addressed significant bicycling issues on the island, and school commuting. "If we can get the kids to school safely by bicycle, then it makes it safe for everyone else as well," she said.

The focus on safety in and around the schools became a pedestrian issue, Bryer continued.

Rolling Agenda evolved into an active community coalition, with the baseball association, soccer association, parent-teacher organization (PTO), and other volunteers. She emphasized that many local considerations needed to be accounted for as the project progressed. "We needed to involve stakeholders in the neighborhood," she said, adding, "The Narragansett (Native American) Tribe is a big stakeholder."

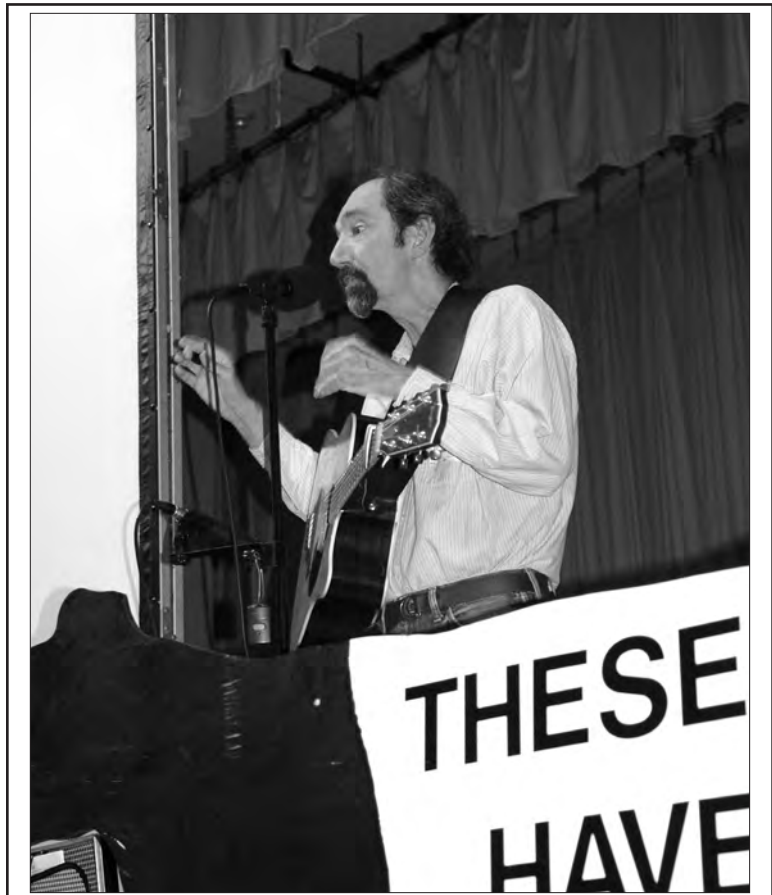
The organization raised over \$30,000, presented their preliminary plan to the town, and hired the consultants to create the plan. "Then we start seeking funds to pay for this project," Bryer said. Some money could come from the state, she added.

The town is currently awaiting word from the Rhode Island Division of Planning about the approval of a grant from the federally funded Safe Routes to School improvement program. A nod from the state could mean up to \$250,000 in allocation for infrastructure improvements on the island.

Carol Nelson-Lee, chairwoman of Rolling Agenda, said the meeting was a good example of inviting everyone in town to participate in a planning process. She praised the residents who offered input for the project, noting that valuable ideas emerged from the discussion. One solution to the traffic congestion on Lawn Avenue was to make the road one way with sidewalks. "I'm really excited," she added about the project.

Carlisle also expressed pleasure with the plan. "Rolling Agenda and the various stakeholders have worked hard to identify the critical areas which need solutions or improvements and are getting very creative yet realistic design suggestions from GLA," he commented.

Samira Hakki, an active volunteer for Rolling Agenda, noted that a high number of Lawn Avenue residents turned out for the presentation, but few represented the side streets. "It would be good to get more neighbors from the feeder streets involved," she suggested. Hakki also noted that no one representing the school attended the meeting, and expressed hope that the school district would become more officially involved.



In Concert

Walkin' Jim Stoltz gave four performances of his environmental folk songs to children at the Jamestown schools last week.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Water

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In light of the improvements made thus far to the island's infrastructure, and in anticipation of additional improvements coming on line, Councilor William Kelly suggested it was time the town re-examine those ordinances which place restrictions island water use.

"I think we can be optimistic with the changes coming on board," Kelly said.

In other business, town councilors discussed the practice of having applicants appear in front of the Water and Sewer Commission during renovations.

Island facing drought conditions

Jamestown is faced with "pretty moderate drought conditions," according to Goslee.

Goslee reported on Monday that the island experienced its fifth straight month with below-average rainfall. That shortage has left the town reservoir dangerously close to triggering a new round of water restrictions.

At 47 inches below capacity, the reservoir stands just one inch above the 48-inch threshold requiring additional water restrictions.

According to town ordinance, individuals on the municipal water system are prohibited from lawn irrigation, house, boat, and residential car washing between June 1 and Oct. 31. Additional restrictions prohibiting commercial car washing go into effect when res-

ervoir level exceeds 4-feet below capacity.

If the dry pattern extends through the winter, Goslee cautioned that town action may be required heading into next year's summer season.

In other business, Goslee also reported that the lack of rain has contributed to an excellent water quality in North Pond.

In addition, Goslee noted that the town's water treatment plant was operating at 99 percent efficiency while full construction on the treatment plant improvement project is set to begin within the next week while construction on the new water tower was complete. With the new tower online, the old tower, which is due for maintenance, could be emptied for service in the coming weeks.

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RE-ELECT BARBARA SZEPAWOSKI TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

OUR TOWN FACES SOME VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES:

WATER SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENT — Jamestown must continue to protect its water supply, work with the RIDEM and USEPA to properly, close the Jamestown Landfill, manage future growth in light of the island's limited resources and protect residents from further expansion of mooring fields in local neighborhoods.

TAXES, WATER AND SEWER BILLS are on the rise — Given the state's 200 million plus budget crisis, local communities must elect officials that pledge, as I do, improved efficiency in government and collaborative efforts with the school department for cost savings — The town's water and sewer fees are exorbitant. I will promote a "water credit program" that evaluates the relationship between safe yield and cost.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING — Jamestown lacks affordable housing. The allowance of "in-law apartments" in existing structures would help to solve this problem. New business uses and mixed uses which favor affordable housing should be embraced rather than hindered due to water usage.

ELDERLY CARE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — Jamestown needs to promote a grant program and alternate funding for assistance to the many Jamestown elderly and family members with seniors that require assisted living for food, clothing and basic home care aid. We will all get older and the time is now to get programs in place to keep our senior neighbors on the island.

My campaign promises to the citizens of Jamestown are:

- safeguard open space and the environment;
- limit municipal tax increases during this time of statewide budget crisis;
- improve efficiency in government;
- further local ordinances and programs to maintain Jamestown as an affordable place to live for a diverse community;
- support a collaborative effort with the school committee to maintain excellence in education for our children;
- to assist our dedicated fire and ambulance services in recruitment and necessary funding to meet our community's emergency needs.



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