

Deer hunt to continue at Beavertail State Park

By Sam Bari

Associate Director Larry Mouradjian, of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, reported that the deer hunting program at Beavertail State Park will continue this year.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Beavertail State Park Advisory Committee on Oct. 17, Mouradjian said, "There were no complaints, and the hunt demonstrated that limited, managed hunting is a legitimate form of wildlife management, which will preserve the park's recreational use and value."

Tick signs

Regional Park and Recreation Superintendent Bob Paquette asked Park Supervisor Brian Gallagher to update the committee on the progress of the tick sign installation. Gallagher advised the committee that he placed signs on 4- by 4- inch posts, 5- feet high, at entrances to each walking path so they would be highly visible and easy to read.

Committee member Hazel Turley thanked the DEM staff that participated in the creation of both the sign and a tick informational brochure for their efforts. Chairman of the Site Acquisition Committee Varoujan Karentz asked if the DEM could provide copies of the brochure for distribution to patrons of the Lighthouse Museum. Paquette said he would have the brochures sent to the BLMA.

Resident caretaker

Chairman Gary Galkin asked if the situation with the resident caretaker had remained the same since the committee's last meeting. Karentz said he had attended

two Town Council meetings on the subject and it seems that the council is going to recommend that the town go along with the transfer of the property. In the last meeting, the Town Council asked Town Administrator Bruce Keiser how much money had been spent by the town on the residence. Keiser replied that he would have to research the question, and then report his findings to the council.

Karentz said he felt a representative of the DEM should attend the Monday, Oct. 22 council meeting. Mouradjian agreed, and said, "The state was not aware that this discussion, which clearly affects the future of the property, was taking place."

Karentz said, "The Town Council and Mr. Keiser understand that the state will become the owner of the property." Mouradjian responded, saying that currently the state technically has no responsibility, and he would like something in writing from the town that they would not oppose the state's action to acquire the property. He also mentioned that he was concerned that the state was not notified of the recent Town Council discussions, as they are clearly affected by the discussions made by the Town Council and town administrator on this issue.

Committee member Linda Warner said that the BLMA was also not notified. Karentz said that he saw the agenda of the council meetings, and since the discussion affected the future of the property, he attended. Karentz and Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association President George Warner said

that from their interpretation of the Town Council discussions, there would be no objection from the council or the town administrator, and that the town would divert their interests in the property when the state takes action to acquire the property.

Special events

Paquette informed the committee that the following was added to the special use application for events at Beavertail: "No limousines or wedding vehicles can park on the roads while the ceremony or pictures are taking place. They must use designated parking lots."

Bathrooms

Turley asked about the status of the project to build permanent bathrooms at Beavertail. Mouradjian said that this project is part of the five-year capital plan, and he is investigating funding from numerous sources.

Mouradjian went on to explain that the capital plan is the amount of money programmed over five years that comes out of the budget for certain projects. These allocations may be overridden for emergency projects and projects that must be completed due to public safety. Mouradjian also said that he is committed to the project and is actively seeking funding for it.

In new business, Linda Warner informed the committee that attendance at the museum was up this year, reporting that the park hosted 25,000 to 27,000 visitors this summer which is about 4,000 more patrons than the previous year.

Perimeter fence

Chairman Galkin noted that the

perimeter fence is still in its previous non-functional condition and no repairs have taken place. Karentz said that the BLMA has submitted a grant request to BankNewport to make the necessary fence repairs. Two quotes were submitted along with the request, one, two-rail, and one, three-rail, with different materials used for each. The BLMA expects to receive notification on

the grant in November.

In other business Mouradjian introduced Steven Wright, DEM, Acting Chief of Parks and Recreation. Mouradjian said that as Acting Chief, Wright would attend committee meetings until a permanent Chief is appointed. Mouradjian also said that he would continue to attend committee meetings and be an active member of the committee.

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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER?



When I first ran for Town Council in 2005, one of my objectives was to build a municipal **animal shelter**. Although I am proud of my efforts to open a "Teen Center", the **Animal Shelter** took a back seat due to the time and effort required to establish the "Teen Center". With a December 1st opening date for the "Teen Center", I want to turn my attention once more to our Town's need for a municipal or private **Animal Shelter**. Paws and Claws still continues to help with the adoption of Jamestown's stray and unwanted pets. But in the last eight years, after placing **hundreds** of Jamestown's cats, mice, rats, guinea pigs, parakeets, parrots, gerbils, dogs, ferrets, and two hedge hogs, we need to **build an Animal Shelter for Jamestown**. If elected, I promise the "**Animal Shelter**" will be one of my priorities along with the "**Juvenile Hearing Board**".

As discussed in last week's ad, if elected to a second term, I want to work to establish a "**Juvenile Hearing Board**" which would "try" and "sentence" Jamestown's juveniles for non-drug related crimes. This "**Board**" would be linked with a "**Volunteer Corp**" that would plan and complete monthly community service projects. I want to thank fellow Councilor Michael Schnack for calling the Jamestown Press with a correction. I was wrong in stating that I requested and was granted money in the Town's 2007-2008 budget for \$500.00 in supplies for this "**Board**". Although the matter was discussed, the Town Council did not vote on this budgetary item. Instead, I was told that if the Council approved the "**Board**", funding for office supplies would be appropriated from the Town's "emergency and incidental line item". I apologize for any confusion this caused. With a maximum anticipated cost of \$500.00, this "**Board**" makes sense as it will lower the Town's legal fees and help our kids get back on the right track.

ON NOVEMBER 6TH, PLEASE VOTE TO RE-ELECT BARBARA SZEPAWOWSKI TO THE JAMESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL