

Sale

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echoed Schnack's concerns saying "we're running the operation not them," and highlighted several more concerns of his own.

In reading the letter provided to the council, Kelly remarked that "what I see is that RITBA is asking for authority over our project."

Kelly went on to list a total of nine items which he found issue with. One such objection was in response to a request by RITBA asking that "the Town release the authority for any damages to the facility." According to Kelly, releasing the authority from liability to the town should bridge workers damage the facility could potentially be extremely costly to the town and provide officials with no avenue for recourse.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser agreed with Schnack and Kelly's concerns saying that the town was "not writing a blank check," and that both the town and the bridge authority "have a common interest in the design," of the highway facility.

Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski asked if these items were just the start of negotiations, to which Keiser replied that RITBA had shown that they were willing

to work with the town to resolve the matter in a timely fashion.

Both Keiser and Town Solicitor Peter Ruggeiro seemed confident that the town and RITBA officials would be able to resolve any differences by the Aug. 28 special referendum on the barn.

Ruggeiro said, "they'll have to make time," to negotiate the final disposition of the sale.

Long gives legislative update

In the open forum, State Rep. Bruce Long (R - Jamestown, Middletown) gave the council a final legislative update for the year. Long reported that although being "slightly watered down," in the senate, three of the bills he co-sponsored in the house regarding coastal homeowners insurance rates passed into law: a bill to create an oversight committee on hurricane modeling used by insurers to set rates, a bill that would seek to stabilize deductibles for coastal residents, and a bill that would require insurance companies to indicate which models they use in their rate-making process. A bill to outlaw the practice of coastal redlining, which would have made it more difficult for insurers to revoke or not renew policies based on proximity to the coast, did not pass the senate, he said.

Also in the open forum, Val-

erie Malloy of Columbia Avenue proposed providing the public access to the town's Tall Ships expenses so that the town would be bettered prepared for the next such event.

In other business:

• The council unanimously approved the question for an August 28 special referendum as adopted on June 25. Voters will be asked to approve or deny the following question:

Shall acts, passed at the 2007 session of the General Assembly, entitled "An act authorizing the Town of Jamestown to finance the construction of a highway garage at a site to be acquired from the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority and adjacent town-owned land, and to issue not more than \$1,500,000 bonds and notes therefore" be approved?

• Recommended that Jamestown Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) Director Rick Hodges confer with Town Administrator Bruce Keiser regarding the JEMS compensation structure. Records indicate that several JEMS administration members may have received compensation for which they are not authorized to receive under current council-approved regulations. Hodges suggested that the unauthorized compensation may have been the result of poor communication between JEMS membership, who had voted in favor of compensating administration members from the \$10,000 allocated by the council for director compensation, and the town council, who have final approval of how taxpayer money is spent.

• Put the awarding of a bid on a town paving project on hold in order to provide the low-bidder an opportunity to meet necessary certification standards with the Department of Transportation.

• Councilman Kelly asked that a budget review workshop be scheduled for some time in September in order to familiarize councilors and the public with the fiscal year

2008 budget prior to November's elections.

• Awarded a certificate of Appreciation to Robert C. and Mary Jane Blanchette for their contribution of transferring ownership of Plat 16, Lot 120 on Schooner Avenue in the Jamestown Shores to the town for the purpose of pres-

ervation.

Kelly encouraged other island residents to consider making similar contributions to the island's preservation efforts and stressed that "anyone willing to make these contributions should be applauded."

Vendors

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peddler licenses on public property at East Ferry to no more than three. Currently, three island businesses have seasonal licenses: Lucky Ridge Company, LLC dba Spinakers Café, Stearns Farms Organic Produce, and Freddie Bing's Hotdog Thing. In addition, Del's Lemonade and Munroe Dairy both have restricted licenses to service island customers through their mobile units.

"Additional one day peddlers at the East Ferry beach area on more than an infrequent basis should be looked at, and if allowed, a change in policy should be considered," Petit wrote to the council.

Councilman Julio DiGiando, who had expressed concern at the last regularly scheduled council meeting regarding the up-tick and for-profit nature of peddler applications, stressed his reservations to issuing licenses to for-profit businesses.

"I am not personally comfortable with for-profits," DiGiando said.

Councilman Michael Schnack

agreed saying that the issue needs further discussion.

Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski, who operated Paws and Claws on Narragansett Avenue for several years, voiced her opposition to allowing vendors to operate in the downtown area because it provides a free venue to seasonal vendors while year-round businesses have to endure a much greater cost of doing business, such as high rents. She further said that she was "totally against anyone from off-island," receiving peddler licenses.

Councilman William Kelly echoed the council's sentiments and suggested that the matter be put on the agenda for the next council meeting on July 23.

Two applications for one day peddler licenses were subsequently unanimously denied by council members: an application by Jeanne Comerford dba The Basket Lady to sell baskets at East Ferry on Saturday, July 21 and Sunday, July 22; and an application by Ruth Collins dba Crafts and Floral Arranging to sell crafts and floral arrangements also at East Ferry on Saturday, Aug. 18.



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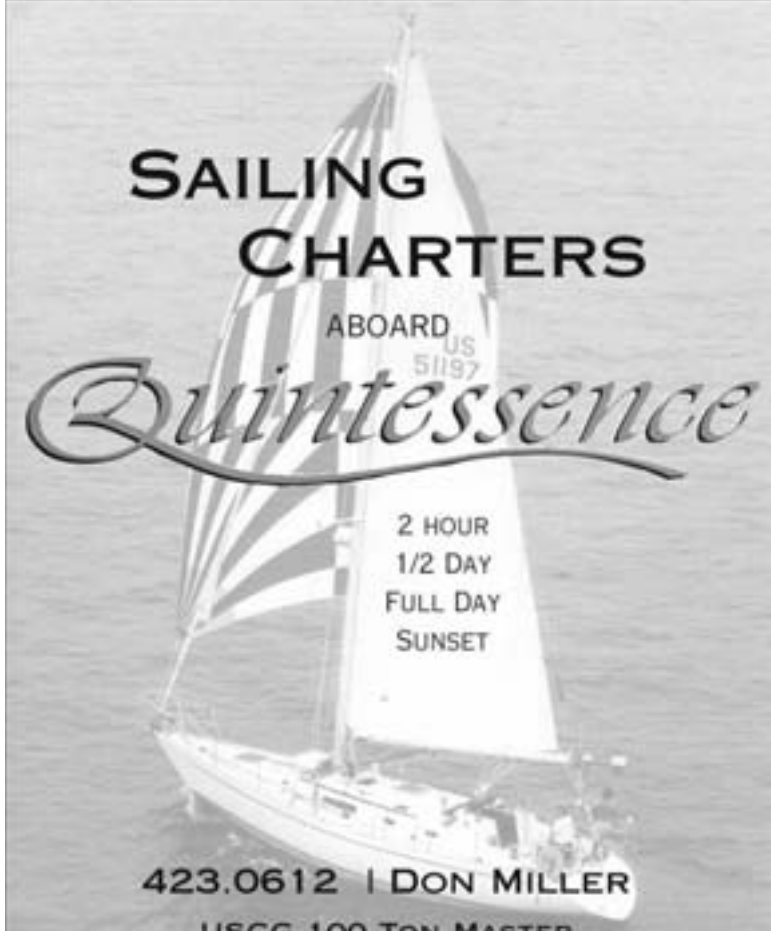


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- Dog Playgroups & Exercising
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