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Council sees presentation on highway barn project

By Tom Shevlin

Several diverse topics made up the agenda for Monday's regularly scheduled Town Council meeting, beginning with an update on the town's highway barn project.

The town has received and reviewed 13 submissions from contractors to design/build the highway barn. "We are currently evaluating the proposals and plan to interview four to six respondents and make a recommendation to the Town Council sometime in February," Keiser wrote in a report to town councilors.

Town Engineer Mike Gray engaged councilors in a lively give-and-take during a presentation de-

tailoring the potential look and feel of the highway barn on Taylor Point. Gray used a recent trip to Central Falls' newly constructed garage facility as a reference for councilors to draw on during the 45-minute presentation.

Input from councilors was mixed and abundant, focusing on topics such as heating, exterior design elements, and office space.

Gray responded to the council's input by assuring them that their ideas would be reflected in the town's request for proposals.

Coyote management
Numi Mitchell, chair of the Nar-

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de Angeli is a modern day Renaissance man

By Sam Bari

Most Jamestown residents recognize Michael de Angeli as Chairman of the Harbor Management Commission and a sailboat racing enthusiast. Few are aware that he is a prominent attorney specializing in the complex field of international patent law.

Although he did not disclose the details of the cases, de Angeli has taken both Toyota and Kodak to court and won. But he was quick to say, "I also lost a case against IBM." The rules of patent law are subject to interpretation and application, and taking a case to court can often be a long and involved ordeal, he said.

De Angeli managed to secure a patent for himself for an innovative exercise machine that he invented, and he considered

that to be a real coup. "So many inventions appear similar, especially in the area of exercise products. It's so easy to infringe on another patent without being aware of it," he said. However, he was never able to secure commercial interest in the invention and the patent has now expired.

He explained that he enjoys patent law because "every day presents a new challenge. All cases are different. And I have the opportunity to work with some very creative people on some fascinating inventions. Going to work is always interesting," he said.

Although he has competed in many arenas, including playing college basketball and later rac-

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Ready for the big game

Steve Jepson, of Columbia Lane, has everything he needs to cheer on the Pats on Sunday. He is so excited about his team being in the Superbowl, that he even got his snowman, Frosty, in on the act.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Jack's Electric gets certificate of occupancy

By Sam Bari

The vote for approval of a special use permit application for shared parking at 14 Clinton Ave. was followed by resounding applause. The Zoning Board of Review, at its January meeting on Tuesday night, voted unanimously to approve the permit for the Windridge Properties building housing Jack's Electric.

Obtaining a shared parking permit allows zoning officer Fred Brown to now issue a certificate of occupancy for the beleaguered building. Although construction was completed more than a year ago, the building has been empty. A certificate of occupan-

cy was denied when the building was issued a violation notice because of differences with the Planning Board that needed to be resolved.

As if the uphill battle that lasted more than a year to resolve planning and zoning issues were not enough, relentless opposition to the project from neighbors Frank and Magdalena Andre, added more drama. The Andres, who live across the street at 13 Clinton Ave., have attempted to thwart the project with a series of legal maneuvers, since a building permit to begin construction was approved. And, Tuesday's zoning meeting was no exception.

The Andres arrived at Town Hall with their Providence attorney Andrew Teitz

and sat in the center of the meeting room surrounded by Jack's Electric supporters. They were the only opponents at the proceedings. Chairman Thomas Ginnerty announced that 45 letters had been received supporting the project and made them available to anyone who was interested.

Phyllis Bedard, owner of Trattoria Simpatico, and Bill Munger, president of Conanicut Marine, both spoke in support of Jack's Electric, the project in general,

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Clark siblings revive family boatyard after a 12-year hiatus



The Clark family will open their boat yard this week. They hope to bring a New England feel to the operation on Racquet Road.

Photo by Sam Bari

By Michaela Kennedy

Four siblings, all children of Francis and Maxine Clark, will join forces again after a 12-year hiatus to restore their boatyard at 110 Racquet Rd. to the quality status of a full service boatyard and marina. The Clark Boatyard and Marine Works will open for business on Feb. 1 and the Clarks welcome all to come ask about the excitement.

The Clark family is bringing home the art of a traditional New England boatyard. "We look to offer a complete service of maintenance, storage and repair," says Francis "Tiny" Clark, senior consultant and father of the clan. His grandfather founded the boatyard in 1934, and Tiny grew up knowing and living the marina life.

Tiny, who seems to fit the nickname of "Captain" better, tells of the days he saw bustling activity on the waterfront at Racquet Road. "We've had up to 75 boats in the marina," he says.

His son Mike, a specialist in welding and electronics who has worked continually at the boatyard for the last 30 years, and is overjoyed to see his family pull-

ing together to preserve a family legacy. "I think it's great," he says, smiling around the table at the other family members. "We want to run it to its potential."

Mike's brother Jim, a builder by trade and owner of JC Construction, describes how the partners are modeling the business after a traditional New England boatyard and marina, similar to the type found in Maine. "We are incorporating modern equipment with a traditional feel," Jim notes.

Sarah, the only sister of the siblings, knows the business as well, with 12 years of experience at the boatyard, and shares her brothers' eagerness to see the boatyard expand. "The opportunity came about for us to take over the business when the lease ran out," she explains. Sarah will run the office.

Gary, another brother and a woodwork specialist, also worked at the boatyard with the former managers that leased the property from the Clarks. He, too, is excited about reuniting with his sister and brothers to nurture the artistry they bring to the business. Gary expresses his eagerness to offer expert, authentic

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