

Planning

Continued from page 1

form-based ordinance was a tool the town could adopt to implement many of the objectives listed in the report.

Part two offers ideas that went beyond the directives, "additional stuff that came out of the charrette. We were surprised it (the charrette) brought up a cathartic." The consultants identified the four corners, as well as the east and west waterfronts, as places to develop for more pedestrian traffic. "We are saying that you should allow mixed use in the downtown district as a right. It's logical, completely in accord with the existing situation, and one less hurdle for you," he said.

When asked if the team suggested a specific area to consider for a historic district, Powers responded that in general the town should support historic districts. "That's a resource that creates one more protection," he added.

Holland asked the difference between design guidelines and an ordinance. Powers acknowledged a sense that people would bridle against being told what to do. Girard added that the value in having any guidelines was, "It gives someone a starting point for discussion. If people come prepared and have a general idea of what the ordinance wants, it is a lot easier."

Commissioner Nancy Bennett asked if this would be an element of divisiveness among those who would be "caught in the net" and those that are free to do what they want, noting a fear of a conformist mind.

Powers defended that guidelines would make decisions more predictable for people. "I believe when you are building in a place like the village, I feel it deserves a certain amount of respect. The town has a right to at least give an opinion." Bryer also defended the guidelines, saying, "The way

I see it, it's helping both planning and the applicant. None of us are architects. When someone comes before the committee, you know you don't like it, but you don't have specific suggestions."

Commissioner Barry Holland asked about the art community and allowing home-based businesses. Brown pointed out that realtors, accountants, and lawyers are working from their home, "and they're not small ticket items."

Town Council president Julio DiGiando showed favor toward smaller lots, but voiced concern about size problems. "We want more density, but in my neighborhood a mega-house is going up." He asked if the commission would have a greater responsibility if zoning were changed. "If the SmartCode is in place, are we going to allow McMansions in an R 8 zone?" he asked.

Powers remarked that size was much more an issue when a home was poorly designed. Commission chairman Gary Girard noted that the guidelines would save applicants "a heck of a lot of money and time. Some applicants spend months, even years coming before us."

Town councilor Bob Sutton stood up to express an appreciation for architecture and design, but warned against deciding what each other thinks. "Truly believe there's more depth that we have to figure out rather than the architect of a building. Design does not build sustainability," he said.

Powers agreed with Sutton that the guidelines could play a tricky game. But Powers went on to debunk the warning, saying, "At the end of the day, how important is aesthetics? The most sustainable community is the one that is most loved by the people and they keep returning," he noted. "We're not advocating; we are presenting a pattern that has existed here for a long time."

Don Wineberg, vice-chairman of the zoning board, disagreed

with Sutton. "If you go to the places you love in the world, they all have self-imposed kind of codes, it's important to sustainability."

Nick Robertson of Carr Lane interjected a pitch for affordable development. "Whether we like it or not, affordable housing is a serious problem. We've realized we have done this much too late," he said. Robertson went on to express concern about demolition happening on the island. "Unfortunately we won't have mandatory review until some treasures are torn down, so give consideration to a demolition ordinance."

Later Powers noted that generally the comments were predictable, but showed some surprise that the design guidelines sparked such debate. "I think of the guidelines as being not so much a restriction, but as a resource."

Jamestown was a great test bed for subjects studied by the company, not because it's unique but because it is focused, more acute, on an island with limited resources. You've got to be careful of what you've got." He called the downtown study "perfect" because it brought to a head everything that other communities deal with as well. "From Jamestown, we will develop a model for the communities in the state," he said.

Events from the charrette last fall can be viewed online at www.jamestownvision.org.

In other business, Girard closed the public hearing for Dutton subdivision review.

Commissioner Bennett asked that a \$300,000 proposal for an island-wide water study, reviewed and tabled by the Town Council last week, be added to the agenda for continued scrutiny. After some discussion of the non-agenda item, the board agreed to add the study to a future agenda.

Weekend of concerts at URI

The University of Rhode Island Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, and Symphonic Wind Ensemble will be featured in separate concerts Feb. 29 through March 2, in the URI Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, 105 Upper College Road, Kingston.

The URI Concert Band, directed by Brian Cardany, will perform a program of 20th century band works on Friday evening at 8 p.m.

The URI Symphony Orchestra, directed by Ann Danis, will perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday evening. Their program will include: the Russlan and Ludmilla Overture by Glinka, Finale from Symphony #2 by Tchaikovsky, As Summer Was Just Beginning (written in honor of James Dean) by Daehn, Song of the Bells by Anderson, and Concerto in C Major for Bassoon by Jan Kozeluch.

The URI Symphonic Wind Ensemble, directed by Gene J. Pollart, has earned an exemplary reputation throughout New England. The members are selected by audition from the finest musicians attending URI, and the performance pieces are drawn from the highest quality of traditional and contemporary repertoire, with a special emphasis on American works. The ensemble will present their Winter Concert on Sunday, March 2, at 3p.m.

Admission for each concert is \$8 for the general public, \$2 for students, with seating on a first-come basis. The box office opens 45 minutes before the concert.

For more information, call the URI Music Department at 874-2431.

Choristers to perform in March

The Newport Navy Choristers, under the direction of JoAnn Loewenthal, will present "Music for a Sunday Afternoon" on Sunday, March 9 at St. Barnabas Church, in Portsmouth. Proceeds from this concert will benefit Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the Newport Navy Choristers.

This concert, which begins at 4 p.m., features light fare music that the entire family will enjoy. The church is located at 1697 East Main Rd.

Tickets will be available at the door, or may be purchased in advance by contacting any Chorister member. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children under the age of 12, and \$15 for families.

For more information, call Steve Larson at 848-6623, or JoAnn Loewenthal, at 849-4823.

URI sponsors reading series

The University of Rhode Island English Department announces its annual spring Read/Write Reading Series. All readings are free, open to the public, and include refreshments.

The readings will be held in the Hoffmann Room 154, Independence Hall, 60 Upper College Rd., on the Kingston Campus.

On Thursday, March 6, from 4 to 5:45 p.m., URI Professor Karen Stein and Rhode Island Poet Laureate, Lisa Starr, will read from their works.

Stein, a professor of English and director of Women's Studies, is currently writing a book on Toni Morrison and is especially interested in the ways that contemporary women writers reflect Gothic themes and motifs.

Starr was recently named Poet Laureate for the state of Rhode Island. She has published two full-length collections of poetry: "Days of Dogs and Driftwood" (1993) and "This Place Here" (2001), and her individual works appear in journals and publications around the country. Starr is the founder of the Block Island Poetry Project, where along with her husband she owns and operates the Hygeia House.

On Thursday, April 3, the featured writers are poet Stephen Cramer and fiction writer Jody Lisberger. The program begins at 4 p.m.

A reception follows each reading. For more information, call 874-5931.

Find the meaning of life

Anyone who is looking for answers on the meaning of life, what the Christian faith is all about, how to pray, how to resist evil, and many other common questions of faith and life, should attend ALPHA, which meets at Christ Church 1025 Main St., East Greenwich, every Monday from 6 to 9 p.m., beginning March 3.

The evening begins with a meal, followed by a video and discussion groups which welcome questions and dialogue. For more information, visit the Christ Church website www.christchurchec.org, call the church office at 884-8632 or email info@christchurched.org.



Town Hall Gallery – "ART IN THE HEART OF JAMESTOWN"
Open Weekdays 8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
 Photo by Don Miller

H.V. HOLLAND, INC.
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS

2 HAMMETT COURT, P.O. BOX 335
 JAMESTOWN, RI 02835
 (401) 423-0614 • FAX (401) 423-0619



It's Hard To Stop A Trane.™



Walker Interiors
 Upholstery
 Wallpaper
 Wool Carpeting
 Fabrics & Trims

849.8641
 926 Aquidneck Ave.
 Middletown, RI 02842
 Monday - Friday • 9am - 5pm

K KARNIS
 Law Group

LEGAL TIP
 A couple's auto insurance policy didn't cover a negligent entrustment suit against them after they lent their car to their son, who was then involved in a hit-and-run accident, the Alaska Supreme Court has ruled in affirming a summary judgement.
 The son – who was uninsured and didn't have a driver's license – was driving his parents' car when he hit a pedestrian. She sued his parents for negligently entrusting the vehicle to their son.
 The insurer refused to cover the pedestrian's claim because the parents had previously chosen to exclude the son from coverage under the policy.
 The plaintiff argued that the exclusion of the son as a named driver under the policy shouldn't bar her claim against the parents for negligent entrustment.
 But the court disagreed.
 The Supreme Court licenses all lawyers in the general practice of law. The court does not license any lawyer as an expert or specialist in any field of practice.

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Product Liabilities
- Maritime Injuries
- Social Security Disability

No Fee Unless Successful

6 VALLEY ROAD • MIDDLETOWN, R.I. 02842
401-841-5300 FAX 401-846-5999
www.karnslaw.com

Narragansett Café
Kitchen Progressing... Opening Soon!
60" Wide-Screen HDTV
 This week's music...
 Friday, February 29th & Saturday, March 1st
The Smokin' Toads

 www.narragansettcafe.com
 401-423-2150
 25 Narragansett Avenue
 Jamestown, RI 02835