

Conservation Commission recommends denial of development plan in Shores

By Michaela Kennedy

Conservation Commission Chairman Christopher Powell opened the panel's May 20 meeting with a discussion about a site visit some of the commissioners made to the Jamestown Shores area the previous week. Board members agreed that more attention should be brought to the cumulative impact of development in high groundwater areas.

The Conservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend against a new construction plan that would require relief from wetlands setback requirements. Powell said that the Planning Commission asked the conservation board to review the development plan application from a wetlands perspective. He noted "major drainage issues up there," but emphasized that the board's expertise did not include runoff calculations.

The board discussed the service and ecological benefit a wetlands area provides. Commissioners agreed that cumulative impact was a problem. Commissioner Carol Trocki showed concern with the design's close proximity to the coastal wetlands. She also showed concern that drainage might not be effective.

"Is there a way to rearrange the

lot to accommodate more separation?" Powell asked.

Powell said comments written by the town engineer reflected concern about drainage.

"You're talking about a good four feet of fill," he said. "We can say we have concerns about drainage, but we can't evaluate it because we are not engineers."

Town Council liaison Barbara Szeptowski suggested finding an engineer that would come in and talk about the newly-engineered drainage systems. She also suggested moving the well into the right-of-way to accommodate the distance needed from the wetlands.

Charlotte Zarlengo of Seaside Drive said that the owners already had a variance from the Department of Environmental Management for 22-feet from the road, where 50-feet is required. "Variances are given out like candy in this state and in this town," she said. She also pointed out that the high groundwater ordinance requires that well and ISDS are on same property, to stop people from putting wells in rights-of-way. "It won't be long before we have salt water intrusion," she added.

Susan Gorelick, a property owner to the north, objected to the

Hayes' development plan and told the commission that the neighborhood could not afford to make exceptions. She explained the history of her own home. "My house should not have been built. It literally sits on the wetlands," she explained. "Three-quarters of the road in front of my driveway is a sheet of ice in the winter. Without that house being built, we already have these problems."

She also objected to the size of the proposed house. Even though the number of bedrooms was reduced from four to two, the square footage of the design was ultimately bigger, she said, adding, "We have a high water table, groundwater, and wetlands. It's really serious."

In a discussion about the osprey platform plan at the Great Creek marsh, commission members suggested moving the platform back to place parking where mitigated wetlands are located rather than disturb a natural wetlands site for parking.

The board agreed to send a memo to the Town Council listing objections to the parking and platform proposal, mainly because it is an expansion of footprint resulting in unnecessary impact on undisturbed areas.



Bill Kelly, left, Barbara Szeptowski, Bruce Keiser, David Long and Michael White celebrated staff appreciation day with a barbeque for town employees at the new Town Hall.

Council hosts appreciation picnic

Last Friday, May 24, the Jamestown Town Council sponsored a barbeque for all the town employees behind the new Town Hall. This event was held in appreciation for the quality services rendered by the Town employees throughout the year. Representatives from the highway department, recreation department, police department, sewer department, water department and the town office staff were in attendance.

The Council members individually and as a group used the opportunity to thank the staff for their help in not only meeting the day-to-day challenges of operating the town but also for their help in bringing to completion the new Town Hall, and moving forward on the construction of the new highway facility.

David Long, past council president, presented a proclamation to the staff thanking them for their professional service and dedication, which he said they demonstrated "day in and day out." Long was gracious in his praise of the staff, but at the same time recognized the residents of Jamestown as the ones that pay the bill for these projects. He noted that it is a combination of a committed council, taxpayers and a professional and dedicated staff that actually get these projects done. This proclamation will be hung in the Town Hall.

Highway Superintendent Kevin Deacon said that there had been a noticeable improvement in staff morale among the members of the highway department. He attributed the staff outlook to the addition of new equipment and the realization that there soon will be a decent highway facility to work out of.

Members of the council paid for the barbeque and intend that this will become an annual event on the Friday before Memorial Day.

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