

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### The zoning future of Jamestown is now

Most of us find zoning a boring topic at best. That was not the case, however, last winter when islanders participated in a series of zoning-related public workshops dealing with the future of the Jamestown village.

Called "A Jamestown Vision," the project was developed to garner public input on how our town's zoning ordinance should be changed. The workshops sought to determine what people liked and did not like about our downtown.

Outside consultants were hired for the project. Many islanders attended the workshops and talked about the downtown. People said they liked the eclectic nature of the village and that it made Jamestown unique. They wondered how we can preserve the character of the village in the years ahead.

Now the Jamestown Planning Commission is working to adapt those ideas into a new set of zoning regulations that will provide the framework for the island's growth and development in the years ahead.

Besides updating the ordinance, the town is considering a new form-based type of zoning ordinance called the SmartCode, which follows a set of predetermined design guidelines.

The interpretation of our island's zoning ordinance could change dramatically.

When the planning commission finalizes the ordinance it will be submitted to the Town Council for approval. After a public hearing, the new zoning ordinance will be put to a council vote.

So, comprehensive zoning changes are ahead. The only problem is that islanders are not paying attention. The planning commission meetings are sparsely attended.

How should we blend residential and commercial properties? Can we create more affordable housing in the village? Can we do away with parking requirements?

Can we keep Jamestown from becoming another Nantucket?

Development pressure on Jamestown will continue to increase.

Now is the time to voice your opinion. Copies of the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance are available at the Town Hall. Residents can also get copies of the Pattern Book and Design Guidelines for building in the village.

It is important that islanders pay attention and educate themselves on the proposed zoning changes and how the SmartCode will impact their properties. Once the new zoning ordinance is enacted it will be too late to complain.

Now is the time to speak up. You can do so by attending the planning commission meetings.

— Jeff McDonough



### A good time to adopt a pet

The Humane Society of Jamestown would like to encourage Jamestown residents to consider adopting a pet from any of the Rhode Island shelters. This is the time of year that these shelters are filled with many animals of all ages that are looking for good homes.

With the nice weather of the next coming months it is the perfect time to bring

a pet into your home on this beautiful island. Join the many island residents who can be seen walking with their faithful companion, or adopt a cozy cat to your home.

To encourage this, the Humane Society will be offering a rebate through the end of October to help defray

the cost of adopting a pet. And, we are always ready to offer any advice you might need in adopting a pet. So please consider adopting a new companion animal into your home.

**Nancy Crawford,**  
president  
**Humane Society of**  
**Jamestown**

### New trailer for Cub Scouts

On behalf of the boys and parents of Jamestown Cub Scout Pack One, I am writing to express my sincere thanks for the generous support from our community during our recent fundraising effort towards the purchase of a camping trailer.

Our Cub Pack has been in need of an enclosed trailer.

See "Letters" on page 9

## • LETTERS •



### This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

#### Week of August 14

*The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.*

#### 100 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, August 12, 1908

The Old Home Week festivities at the Carr Homestead were closed with the play Saturday evening.

Mr. Robert Goelet of Newport entertained a small party last evening at the Goelet Fishing Club at Beavertail. Steamer Conanicut making an extra trip about midnight to take the party back.

The band concert last evening drew a large gathering which not only enjoyed the music but also the sail on the bay, conditions of both moon and wind being perfect.

##### From the Newport Daily News, August 14, 1908

Considerable complaint is being made in regard to the reckless shooting at the rifle range on Fort Greble as the ferryboats pass. A number of passengers have stated that bullets have glanced from the targets and have passed near the boats.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, August 10, 1933

An interesting feature of the opening of the American Legion carnival will be a doll contest for girls and a marble contest for boys.

##### From the Newport Daily News, August 11, 1933

The regular Thursday evening camp fire service was held at "Seaside" camp, Conanicut Park.

Jamestown's tax rate for the next fiscal year is to remain at \$20 per \$1,000 valuation. ... The assessors placed the following valuation on property: Land, \$2,108,035; buildings, \$2,534,195; tangible property, \$444,807; intangible property, \$255,689.

##### From the Newport Daily News, August 16, 1933

Although out-hit in a free slugging match, the

Union Athletic Club defeated Jamestown 7-5 at the Basin Tuesday evening.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, August 11, 1958

A Jamestown to Newport swimming race on Monday, Aug. 25, will be sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police. ... Each swimmer should be accompanied by a rowboat.

##### From the Newport Daily News, August 16, 1958

Revenues from the Jamestown Bridge for the first two weeks of August amounted to a gross of \$1,379.90 or seven percent more than the same period last year. ... Hull (Charles L., manager) reported that T. R. Kaiser has completed the installation of new navigation light fixtures which he said are a 100 percent improvement over the originals. He also added that he had distributed 7,000 bridge brochures on routes to Cape Cod and the Connecticut Turnpike.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, August 9, 1983

"Harbor View," a landmark along the waterfront, is slated to be razed soon to make way for a new six-unit condominium. Built in 1887 as a summer boarding house, the building served as a nursing home until a few years ago.

Fifty-five Jamestown artists displayed their works at the ninth annual Conanicut Island Art Association art show Friday through Sunday at the Recreation Center.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, August 13, 1993

The Town Council will meet in a special session Monday, Aug. 16, to discuss spending \$160,000 to purchase federally-owned land at Ft. Wetherill where the town's highway barn is located.

Fire department members have named a committee to examine the feasibility of erecting a station house on a site somewhere on the island's north end.

The newly formed Senior Center Action Committee may try to raise \$120,000 in donations from local residents to establish an activities center for the island's senior citizens. Town council members have voted to pay \$225,000 to buy the professional build-

See "History" on page 7

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We'll keep you informed!

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