

Merchants question zoning ordinance amendments

By Sam Bari

A group of Chamber of Commerce members attended the Oct. 15 Planning Commission meeting to question ordinance changes suggested by the planning office. Those who were most vocal about the suggested changes were concerned about diminishing property values and drastic changes coming to the downtown area.

Gail Sheahan, owner of Consistent Care, a home health care agency at 8 Clinton Ave., said that she was more qualified than anyone on her street to be a T-5. She had the required parking spaces and zero setbacks.

"Now you're going to relax the setbacks and the number of parking spaces required by designating the area where my property is as a T-4 zone. I worked hard to be a CD, and now you're going to take that away from me. Now I can't expand. If you're going to make Randall Gal-

leries a T-5, then I want to be designated as a T-5 as well. I am not happy about this at all," she said.

"Anyone who bought property before this change should be grandfathered in for as long as we keep the property, and stay the same that we were when we bought it," she said. "This change doesn't benefit me at all. It benefits the Randalls. They went from a CL to a T-5, but it doesn't benefit me. What I see is you're trying to take my land away from me," she added.

Town Planner Lisa Bryer suggested that Sheahan pick up and read a copy of the proposed ordinance and plan so that she can fully understand what is being recommended.

Bryer said there were good reasons for the creation of T-4 and T-5 zones. The commission was looking for more relaxed setbacks in the transition areas as far back as when the downtown vision project was put out to bid. She said that was the

reason for creating the T-4 and T-5 designations.

"We would like see the T4 areas, which are commercial, have among other things, more relaxed setbacks so it is obvious that they are in a transitional zone from a commercial area to a residential area. We don't want it to appear as if the change from one area to the next is abrupt," Bryer said.

Jack Brittain, owner of Jack's Electric on Clinton Avenue, argued that the changes were not consistent with what occurred at the charrettes.

"I was at every charrette meeting," Brittain said. "I heard everybody say that they wanted to preserve Jamestown as it is. The people want everything to stay the same. This is not staying the same," Brittain added. "These are drastic changes. I hope they are not being made to justify the money spent on the charrettes."

During his speech to the com-

mission, Brittain said that he never heard the words "zoning change." He challenged anyone who attended the meetings to come forth and say so if they heard "zoning change" mentioned.

Commissioner Richard Ventrone explained that to make some of the changes that were suggested by people who attended the charrettes, revisions in the zoning ordinances would be required.

Commissioner Jean Brown asked Bryer, "Do you have the ability to literally change somebody's zoning like that?"

"With Town Council approval, yes," Bryer said.

"But we would never want to do that. We would never want to diminish anybody's property value in this process," Brown said.

Bryer agreed, and said that was certainly not the intent. She also said that it was important for everyone to fully understand the sug-

gested changes and ordinances, and what the commission was trying to achieve before jumping to any conclusions.

After additional discussion and input from several other business and property owners, commissioner Michael Swistak motioned to not reduce any property presently zoned as CD to any designation less than T-5. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

However, the commissioners agreed that possibly changing T-3 designations to T-4 and T-4 areas to T-5 required further discussion.

Bryer said afterwards that she hoped the meeting would encourage more people to attend. "That's why we're here, to discuss suggested changes and decide together whether we want them." She said that if the town wants changes, they have to decide together how they want the changes made.

KRISTINE S. TROCKI
Attorney and Counsellor at Law



KRISTINE S. TROCKI
RESOLVES DISPUTES IN
THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- PERSONAL INJURY
- AUTO ACCIDENTS
- PRODUCT LIABILITY
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- WRONGFUL DEATH
- LANDLORD/TENANT
- EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION
- WRONGFUL DISCHARGE
- MINOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES
- DIVORCE MEDIATION
- BUSINESS & CONTRACT DISPUTES
- COLLECTIONS

38 Narragansett Avenue, Suite D, Jamestown, RI 02835
tel 401.423.3390 | fax 401.423.3370 | kst@trockilaw.com

Nite Oil Co., Inc.
Since 1983




Welcomes New Customers
A FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS
EXPERIENCE YOU CAN COUNT ON!

- SERVICE WITH OUR OWN TECHNICIANS
- BOILER AND FURNACE REPLACEMENTS
- OIL TANK REPLACEMENTS
- CALL IN COD DELIVERIES
- AUTOMATIC DELIVERIES
- BUDGET TERMS AVAILABLE

WE DELIVER MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY ON JAMESTOWN!
401-624-6600 • 800-673-6118
62 AQUIDNECK DRIVE • TIVERTON, RI 02878

PETROLEUM DEALER LICENSE # 224


GIRLZ ROCK!



Glitzy Mermaid Dolls
Have Swum Back to Town
Nautical Impressions

GIFTS FOR SAILORS AND
LANDLUBBERS ALIKE

16 West Main Street • Wickford
(401) 295-5303



The Rhode Island Hand Center
Surgery and Care of the Hand and Upper Extremity

Leonard F. Hubbard, MD
Board Certified by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Fellow of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand

Victoria Moitoso, OTR/L
Christina Allard, COTA/L
Therapy for the Hand and Upper Extremity

New Patients Seen Immediately
Accepting Most Insurance Including United Health

1150 Reservoir Ave., Cranston, RI 02920 401-942-0280
www.rihandcenter.com



People Above Politics

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Now more than ever, Jamestown residents *face the growing pressure* of developers and others who would put immediate financial gains above the environment that we all share.

One of my major goals as your voice in the General Assembly is to look long term and support legislation that will *protect Narragansett Bay* and Rhode Island's environment.

I am eager to continue my work with Jamestown residents and local officials on critical environmental issues *for the benefit of future generations.*

Repbruce74@aol.com • 423-0700

Bruce LONG
State Representative

Rep. Long is endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Paid for by Friends of Bruce Long