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Council deadlocks on turbines

Agreement reached on anti-LNG port resolution

By Phil Zahodiakin

In a meeting dominated by energy issues, the Jamestown Town Council this week deadlocked in its first attempt to decide where a wind turbine should be located and whether the town should build more than one.

The council members, one of whom was absent for the Feb. 1 meeting, responded decisively to an issue involving a far less benign source of energy – liquefied natural gas – by adopting a resolution co-sponsored in the R.I. General Assembly by Rep. Deborah Ruggerio.

In contrast, the wind turbine debate became mired in confusion as council members, the town administrator, a consultant and the public debated a question raised by newly updated financial predictions – namely, whether the town would make any money by selling electricity produced by a single, or twin, turbines.

During a recent workshop, the council asked the Wind Energy Committee to provide profit estimates reflecting the retail price that R.I. towns may charge for the sale of excess electricity from town-owned turbines.

The estimates indicate that the town would earn up to \$9.9 million

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Picture a wind turbine . . .

Where is the best location for a wind turbine on Conanicut Island? Ft. Getty (above) or Taylor Point (bottom picture)? There is not much infrastructure at Ft. Getty. Meanwhile, Taylor Point has the Newport Pell Bridge and administration building, the highway barn and the wastewater treatment plant.

Photos by Jeff McDonough



Narragansett argues for island H.S.

By Eileen M. Daly

The School Committee heard an impassioned plea from the Narragansett School Department last Wednesday night not to rule out Narragansett High School as the high school of choice for Jamestown's students.

Members of the Narragansett School Committee, Narragansett Superintendent Katherine Sipala, Narragansett High School Principal Dan Warner, Administrator of Student Services Elizabeth Pinto and Athletic Director Rich Adham all expressed their opinions about Narragansett High School and why it's the best fit for Jamestown's students.

The special meeting of the two committees was held at the request of Sipala, who opened her talk by recalling her time in Jamestown. Sipala served as the district's superintendent for four years before leaving in 2006 to assume her current position in Narragansett.

Sipala recounted participating in the last high school review conducted by the Jamestown School Committee five years ago.

Narragansett High School was also considered during that review, Sipala said, adding, "Narragansett High School is a different school today."

She talked about the physical differences and said that Narragansett High School has undergone major renovations since the last review. She also talked about the leadership differences in Nar-

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Helping the world's kids an everyday job for islander



Founded in 1937, Plan USA of Warwick works to address the origins of poverty in 48 developing countries throughout the world – including Haiti.

Photo courtesy of Plan USA

You can support relief efforts in Haiti

By Holly Benton

Robin Costello feels lucky.

Although the Jamestown resident is often mired daily in the details of fear and poverty and destruction, she's also part of an organization that brings something vital to the world's children: Hope.

As director of communications for the Warwick-based Plan USA, Costello manages all internal and external communications for the organization, which works to address the origins of poverty in 48 developing countries throughout the world.

"In light of Haiti, and in light

of the earthquake and child protection pieces, with everything we do really focused on children and families and communities, it's great work," she said. "I feel really fortunate to be here."

Since the devastating earthquake that occurred in Haiti on Jan. 12, Costello and Plan USA have utilized their extensive experience in disaster relief to bring hope to thousands of Haitian children and families.

Plan has been working in Haiti since 1973, and its team of 160 staff members and emergency specialists has been working overtime since the earthquake.

Haiti's children are particularly vulnerable since the quake, Costello said, so Plan has been working to make child protec-

tion and psychological support a priority by distributing child protection messages, organizing temporary schools and offering emotional support.

This past Sunday, the local Youth United for Global Action and Awareness chapter of Plan gathered with Costello at her Warwick office to talk on the phone with Plan spokesperson Steven Theobald, currently working in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The exchange was particularly meaningful for YUGA members and friends of two 17-year-old Haitian students who attended last year's annual YUGA global leadership event in North Smithfield.

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