**TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**November 18, 2013**

1. ROLL CALL

Town Council Members present:

Kristine S. Trocki, President

Thomas P. Tighe

Eugene B. Mihaly

Blake A. Dickinson

Mary E. Meagher, Vice President

Conservation Commission Members present:

Maureen Coleman, Chair

Michael Brown

Anne Kuhn-Hines

Ted Smayda

Kate Smith

George Souza

Conservation Commission Members absent:

Patrick Driscoll

Also present:

Kevin E. Paicos, Town Administrator

Christina D. Collins, Finance Director/Interim Town Administrator

Peter D. Ruggiero, Town Solicitor

Lisa Bryer, Town Planner

Michael Gray, Public Works Director

Catherine Kaiser, School Committee Chair

William Piva, Recreation Director

Cheryl A. Fernstrom, Town Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Town Council President Trocki called the Jamestown Town Council and Conservation Commission Workshop to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Jamestown Town Hall Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue.

1. TOWN COUNCIL/CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

President Trocki noted that no votes will be taken as this is a workshop for a dialogue.

* 1. Hull Cove. Conservation Commission Chair Maureen Coleman referenced the RIDEM Grant for $80,000 for the Hull Cove Trail project. The application process was approved by a previous Council. Discussion involved the public work session held November 12, 2013 to present the project, gather information, and answer questions posed by the public. Trail improvements and a brief history the grant process followed. The grant specifies a 3 ft. raised boardwalk and all trail improvements must be approved by CRMC. The next step is public input prior to proceeding with a bid process next spring.

The cutting done by an unknown person to the Hull Cove Trail was noted, prompting the grant application for trail restoration. The potential problems with public access were referenced.

Council comments.

Councilor Mihaly questioned the ADA compliance requirement. Ms. Coleman commented on CRMC requirements.

Councilor Dickinson asked about the restoration of the area to its prior state, compliance issues, and the town’s responsibility. Discussion ensued. Solicitor Ruggeiro noted the Town was not fined by CRMC for the cutting by the unknown person. The barricade was rebuilt by Town staff.

Discussion ensued of grant specifications. The Conservation Commission feels the trail improvements are a worthwhile project. Grant funding does not cover maintenance. Until there is a bid process, actual costs are unknown. Parking issues at Hull Cove were noted. Lengthy discussion ensued. Litter and other concerns voiced by neighboring property owners were noted. Public Works Director Gray gave an overview of the bid process.

President Trocki thanked the Conservation Commission for their information.

* 1. Deer tick strategies. President Trocki noted the letter from the Conservation Commission stating their concerns and providing educational information. Conservation Chair Coleman expressed the Commission’s concerns for toxicity of the pesticides used for deer tick control and their affect on fish, other aquatic organisms, bees, beneficial insects, and the environment. In providing a list of options for deer tick management, the Conservation Commission encourages a balanced approach that does not lead residents to assume pesticides are risk free. Lengthy discussion continued.

Councilor Mihaly referenced the ongoing work of the Tick Task Force. Dr. Thomas Mather, Director of URI’s Center for Vector-Borne Diseases gave his perspective on deer tick management. Dr. Mather stated his understanding for the concern for pesticide exposure and explained that risk = hazard x exposure, and by limiting the exposure to ticks, the hazard is reduced. Any exposure to pesticides should be minimal, and he uses them properly and has not experienced any reduced beneficial insects or problems with the pond fish on his property. A clear and fair statement that represents the actual risk and does not scare people is appropriate.

Discussion ensued of the deer and their risk in the Lyme disease cycle. Dr. Mather stated a management scheme that is multi-focused with lots of options is the best course of action. Area-wide strategies coupled with personal protection are the types of things that work best and what he believes the Tick Task Force is working towards. Lengthy discussion ensued.

President Trocki noted the Tick Task Force is still gathering information and no decisions have been made as a Council regarding acceptable options or set a policy. Dr. Mather’s research on the Town’s website is a wonderful tool, but she is concerned with some of the wording as it may suggest the Town supports the use of pesticides. Councilor Mihaly stated the Tick Task Force will include a disclaimer to Dr. Mather’s information so that the public knows it is not the Town’s position to spray public spaces. Fair and balanced language is required and will be provided by the Task Force. An integrated approach is the best solution and the Task Force is here to educate the public and raise awareness of tick-borne illnesses. Discussion continued. Dr. Mather was thanked for coming this evening.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT/DISCUSSION

Kulie Kallfelz of Green Lane commented on the crisis of tick-borne illnesses and stated all the solutions and their side effects must be investigated.

Councilor Dickinson prefers not to spray and looks to more natural solutions.

President Trocki noted that all comments are welcome and encouraged citizens to access the website for information.

Conservation Commission member George Souza noted the level of the health issue that exists in Jamestown and asked if there is legislation to address it and has it been determined whose responsibility it is.

Solicitor Ruggiero noted there is no Town regulation on this. Vice President Meagher noted the significant health issue and this is an ethical issue and a very tough question that needs to be addressed, beginning with education. This is now coming to the legislative forefront.

The Conservation Commission was thanked for coming this evening, for their input, and urged to keep the information coming.

1. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the workshop was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Attest:

Cheryl A. Fernstrom, CMC, Town Clerk

Copies to: Town Council

Town Solicitor

Town Administrator

Finance Director