Date posted: OCTOBER 17, 2023  by 4:00 P.M.

All items on this agenda are to be discussed and/or acted upon.

TOWN OF LITTLE COMPTON
TOWN COUNCIL
Wilbur McMahon School, Media Center
28 Commons
Little Compton, RI

MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2023

Live streaming at
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNoKeQBPql33aEtqzOXHO9g

AGENDA

6:00 P.M. - The Council may enter into Executive session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) for a six-month review of the job performance of the Town Solicitor.

7:00 P.M.

Salute to the Flag

Announcements:

1. Request for discussion on Town Way to be placed on tonight's agenda will be continued to a future council meeting.

Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2023

Department Head Reports:

1. Police Department – September 2023 monthly report

Old Business:

1. Review the initiatives being taken to consider additional means of deterring crop damage by birds.
2. Verbal report from Town Solicitor regarding discussion with RI Dept. of Environmental Management legal representatives concerning the Town Landing and a recent request for designated parking spaces for town residents.
New Business:

1. Presentation on the nation’s Semiquincentennial coming up in 2026 to be given by Lauren Fogarty, Program Coordinator, RI Dept. of State
2. Receive proposals for engineering services for the reconstruction of the town tennis courts, consider assigning review and recommendation for Nov 2, 2023 meeting
3. Request from Caroline Wilkie Wordell for the Town’s Tree Lighting to be scheduled for December 3, 2023 at 5 pm in conjunction with the 30th Annual Ben and Chet Wilkie Memorial Tree Spree which will be held at the School

Board of License Commissioners:

1. Request for a Class F-1 one day Retail Beverage License for a Surf & Turf dinner to be held on November 11, 2023 at the John Dyer Road facility.

Communications:

1. Request from the LC Village Improvement Society to use Veteran’s Field on May 4, 2024 for the third annual Sakonnet Plant Fair and August 3, 2024 for the annual Chicken BBQ.
2. Copy of an electronic public notice received from RI Dept. of Environmental Management proposal to change existing state Groundwater Regulations and Surface Water Quality Regulations, comments to be sent by December 31, 2023, public hearing held Oct. 19, 2023 at 2 PM (prior to this council meeting)
3. Letter received from six individuals offering their concerns about the dangers and risks of the Offshore Wind projects.
4. Request from Ella Barrett and Ian Gale to use the Town Landing on June 15, 2024 at 4 pm for their wedding ceremony.
5. Request for the Town Council to declare the month of November as Family Court Awareness Month

Consent: none

Payment of Bills

Consent Agenda - All items listed are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen so requests in which event the item will be withdrawn from the General Order of business and considered in the normal sequence on the agenda.

All are welcome to any meeting at the town, which is open to the public. Individuals requiring communication assistance or any accommodation to ensure equal participation will need to contact the Town Clerk at 635-4400 not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.
Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on October 5, A.D. 2023 at 7:00 o’clock PM held in in-person format at the Wilbur-McMahon School Media Center, 28 Commons, Little Compton, RI. Members present: Paul J. Golembeske, Andrew Iriarte-Moore, Gary S. Mataronas, Patrick McHugh and Robert L. Mushen. Also: Anthony DeSisto, Town Solicitor, and Antonio Teixeira, Town Administrator.

At 7:02 PM the Council President called the meeting to order with a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second from Councilor Mataronas voting in favor (Golembeske, Iriarte-Moore, Mataronas, McHugh, Mushen): To approve, as written the Town Council minutes for September 21, 2023 meeting.

Councilor McHugh requested the Town Way project be placed on the next Council agenda for follow up with Don Medeiros (Able Engineering). Sal Marinosci, resident of Town Way and Oliver Lane presented documents to the Council from the Town’s comprehensive plan and CRMC regarding signage.

Councilor Iriarte-Moore asked the Town Administrator for clarification for the Community Learning Program funding access and use for the Community Center. Town Administrator responded the use of funds would be for kitchen renovations, walk-in cooler, windows, and a generator. The kitchen renovation is the primary goal to expand meals served.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second from Councilor Iriarte-Moore, voting in favor (Golembeske, Iriarte-Moore, Mataronas, McHugh, Mushen): To place on file the following Department Head Reports for September 2023.

1. Town Clerk - monthly report for September 2023
2. Tax Assessor - monthly report for September 2023
3. Building/Zoning - monthly report for September 2023
4. Fire Department - monthly report for September 2023
5. Town Administrator - monthly report for September 2023
6. Department of Public Works - monthly report for September 2023

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second from Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Golembeske, Iriarte-Moore, Mataronas, McHugh, Mushen): To accept with regret the letter of resignation from D. Craig Curtis resigning from the LC Budget Committee. Peter Alexander Bermudez, unelected candidate with the highest number of votes will fill the unexpired term until May 15, 2025. Council Mataronas requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Curtis.

At 7:13 PM the Town Council sitting as the Board of License Commissioners voted the following:

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second from Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Golembeske, Iriarte-Moore, Mataronas, McHugh, Mushen): To authorize the Town Clerk to advertise to hear those applications received for the renewal of Retail Beverage Licenses during a hearing to be held on November 2, 2023 for the 2023-2024 license period.
Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second from Councilor Golemeske, voting in favor (Golemeske, Iriarte-Moore, Mataronas, McHugh, Mushen): To place on file a letter to Council President acknowledging receipt of a third extension request made to complete the project of installation of fire alarm system in the town hall.

Motion made by Councilor Golemeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting by raised hand, all in favor (Golemeske, Iriarte-Moore, Mataronas, McHugh, Mushen): That the bills be allowed and ordered paid as follows: $34,592.53

RI Energy - Street Lights $91.01
Esquire Deposition Solutions - Zoning Board $375.00
Petro - Diesel $663.36
Caseys Oil - Town Hall $592.91
Caseys Oil - Public Safety Complex $1,206.69
Caseys Oil - DPW $547.67
Salva & Sons - Town Hall $85.00
Salva & Sons - Town Hall $125.00
Daves Lawnmower Repair - Highway $1,794.99
Verizon - Wastewater Treatment Facility $56.25
W.B.Mason - Town Hall $9.84
W.B.Mason - Town Hall Restoration Project $237.58
W.B.Mason - Council $43.94
W.B.Mason - Town Hall Restoration Project $95.96
Home Depot - DPW - Civic Rec. $265.90
EastBay Media Group - Canvassing $246.00
Sakonnet Tree Inc. - Tree Fund $400.00
Western Oil - Transfer Station $150.00
E&J Tripp Lawn Care Inc. - Cemetery Fund $280.00
Sakonnet Tree Inc. - Tree Fund $755.00
Sakonnet Tree Inc. - Tree Fund $1,483.00
Sakonnet Tree Inc. - Tree Fund $396.00
Henry's Tire Service - DPW $115.56
R.S. Rental Equipment CO., Inc.- Highway Department $506.00
Info Quick Solutions Inc. - Computer $342.00
Cox Business - 40 Commons $104.99
Business Furniture Outlet - Tax Assessor $2,855.00
EastBay Media Group - Town Clerk $35.00
RI Flags, LLC $660.00
W.B. Mason - Town Hall $19.99
W.B. Mason - Tax Assessors $5.97
W.B.Mason - Fire Department $86.60
Sakonnet Plumbing & Heating, Inc.- Public Safety Complex $124.38
Tiverton Auto Body - Fire Department $45.00
Rob's Auto Care - Fire Department $75.00
Bound Tree - Fire Department $131.08
Fire Pro - Fire Department $35.19
Eagle Leasing Company - Fire Department $808.00
Humphrey's - Fire Department $73.26
Rob's Auto Care - Fire Department $1,420.24
On Scene, LLC - Fire Department $2,272.63 $4,860.40
Coronis Health - Ambulance Fund $1,568.01
F.M. Bodington Plumbing & Heating, Inc. - Ambulance Fund $240.93
Brown Emergency Medicine - Ambulance Fund $250.00
High Efficiency Nozzles - Ambulance Fund $1,240.00 $3,298.94
Info Quick Solutions Inc. - Computer $1,243.75
Rob's Auto Care - Police Department $1,389.51
Rob's Auto Care - Police Department $331.00
A&M Tactical - Police Department $510.90
W.B.Mason - Police Department $5.29
W.B.Mason - Police Department $241.22
W.B.Mason - Police Department $56.00
FirstNet - Police Department $47.66
FirstNet - Police Department $130.44 $2,712.02
Anthony DeSisto Law Associates, LLC $637.50
Anthony DeSisto Law Associates, LLC $7,083.33

5-Oct-23 $34,592.53

With no further business before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Councilor McHugh requested that the Town Solicitor’s 6 month review be placed on a future Council Agenda. Additionally that the Finance Director provide six months statements of 2022 and six months statements of 2023 from the Solicitor for comparison. Also requesting input from the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Beach Commission for the review. An executive session with be held at 6PM on October 19, 2023 before the Council Meeting.

________________________
Heather J. Cook, Deputy Town Clerk
**MEMORANDUM**

Date: October 2, 2023

To: The Honorable Town Council

From: Chief Scott N. Raynes

Subject: Monthly Report for September 2023

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**September 2023 Patrol Activity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calls responded to</td>
<td>1079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Complaints received</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaints closed this month</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaints closed (previous month)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle citations issued</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle warning issued</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Arrest</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of Town Ordinances</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accident investigated</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglar alarms</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported deaths</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Gallons of gasoline used</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage</td>
<td>9,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaking &amp; Entering</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Stolen Property</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Little Compton Police Department**  
60 Simmons Road  
**Town of Little Compton, Rhode Island**  
**Office of the Police Chief**

**MEMORANDUM**

**September 2023 Police Overtime Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Totals:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sick Leave replacement</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal leave replacement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation replacement</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training replacement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Detail</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Detail</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrol Supplement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp-time replacement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injured on duty replacement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Riptide/Grant</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military leave replacement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**September 2023 Dispatch Overtime Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Totals:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sick leave replacement</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal leave replacement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation replacement</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training replacement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday replacement</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp-time replacement</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekend replacement</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEMORANDUM

September 2023 Part-time Dispatch Hours

Weekend replacement 16
Vacation replacement 0
Sick leave replacement 0
Personal day 0
Holiday replacement 0
Training replacement 0
Comp-time replacement 0

September 2023 Town fuel log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gasoline</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># 1 Unused</td>
<td>76,010.0</td>
<td>76,010.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 2 Fire department</td>
<td>28,411.1</td>
<td>28,626.2</td>
<td>215.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Unused</td>
<td>4,223.5</td>
<td>4,223.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 4 Maintenance</td>
<td>42,571.2</td>
<td>43,021.3</td>
<td>450.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 5 Highway Department</td>
<td>2,560.2</td>
<td>2,560.2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 6 Senior Bus</td>
<td>5,267.7</td>
<td>5,368.3</td>
<td>100.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 7 Beach Commission</td>
<td>1,410.1</td>
<td>1,410.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8 Police Department</td>
<td>12,841.5</td>
<td>13,995.5</td>
<td>1,154.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Gasoline: 1,919.8
Little Compton Police Department  
60 Simmons Road  
Town of Little Compton, Rhode Island  
Office of the Police Chief

MEMORANDUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diesel</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># 1 Fire Department</td>
<td>45,458.1</td>
<td>46,215.7</td>
<td>757.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 2 Unused</td>
<td>11,043.7</td>
<td>11,043.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 3 Highway Department</td>
<td>5,313.2</td>
<td>5,313.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 4 Maintenance Department</td>
<td>4,904.1</td>
<td>4,961.1</td>
<td>57.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 5 Old Senior bus</td>
<td>362.8</td>
<td>362.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Diesel: 814.6

Respectfully,

[Signature]

John Faria  
Lieutenant  
Deputy Chief
To: Little Compton Town Council
From: Caroline Wilkie Wordell

Once again I am writing to ask that the town’s tree lighting and caroling be held on Pike’s Peak in conjunction with the

30th Annual

**Ben and Chet Wilkie Memorial Tree Spree**

on Sunday, December 3rd at 5 p.m.

I will be responsible for the caroling.

Thank you!
National Veteran-Owned Small Business Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, nearly one out of ten small businesses across the United States is veteran owned -- from store fronts to high-tech startups -- and are pillars of our economy, contributing daily to the economic success of our nation; and

WHEREAS, veteran and military spouse small business owners are resilient, disciplined, and mission-oriented, a natural result of their commitment to serving our country and communities; and

WHEREAS, when we resolve ourselves to strengthen our communities, we must empower and support the giants that veteran entrepreneurs are in our economy; and

WHEREAS, National Veterans Small Business Week highlights the programs and services available to veteran entrepreneurs through the U.S. Small Business Administration and resource partners; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Little Compton supports and joins in this national effort to help America’s veteran owned small businesses start, grow, and recover their businesses after a disaster and help our communities thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Little Compton Town Council proclaims October 30 through November 3, 2023 as

NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Voted this ___ day of ______, 2023 by the Little Compton Town Council.

_____________________________________________________
Robert L. Mushen, Town Council President

Attest: _____________________________________________
Carol A Wordell, Town Clerk
PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LITTLE COMPTON, RI

The undersigned respectfully requests of your honorable board, that a license may be granted to:

The Little Compton Game Club for a E-1 Liquor License for a "Surf & Turf" Dinner to be held on premises at 88 John Dyer Rd Nov. 1, 2023

______________________________
Signature

In Town Council, __________________________

Read and granted __________________________

Witness, __________________________
Town Clerk
October 16, 2023

Dear Little Compton Town Council,

The Little Compton Village Improvement Society requests the reservation of Veterans Field on the following dates:

Saturday May 4, 2024 for the third annual Sakonnet Plant Fair.
Saturday August 3, 2024 for the annual Chicken BBQ

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mikel Folcarelli
President
Little Compton Village Improvement Society
Carol Wordell

From: Robert Mushen
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2023 8:26 PM
To: Carol Wordell
Cc: Tony Teixeira
Subject: FW: Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Regulations Public Notice

Carol,

Don’t know if you received this by other means, but we should make this an item on the upcoming agenda. Thanks.

Bob

From: Sawyers, Jane (DEM) [mailto:jane.sawyers@dem.ri.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:04 PM
To: Sawyers, Jane (DEM) <jane.sawyers@dem.ri.gov>
Cc: Millar, Colin (DEM) <Colin.Millar@dem.ri.gov>; Zwarg, Jonathan (DEM) <jonathan.zwarg@dem.ri.gov>; Kiernan, Sue (DEM) <sue.kiernan@dem.ri.gov>
Subject: Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Regulations Public Notice

To Municipal and Government Officials,

I am writing to inform you that the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has released public notice and is currently accepting comments on changes to the existing state Groundwater Regulations and Surface Water Quality Regulations. These rule-making efforts were initiated to comply with legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2022 legislative session and signed into law. Specifically, RIGL § 46-32-5 Groundwater quality standards for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and § 46-32-5-6 Surface water quality action levels for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances direct the Department to establish groundwater quality standards and surface water quality action levels for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances by December 31, 2023. Additionally, in the Surface Water Quality Regulations, minor updates have been made to shellfishing bacteria criteria reflective of current Department practice.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of manmade fluorinated chemicals. They have been used since the 1940s to make products water-, grease-, and stain-resistant. Distinct properties of this chemical family cause them to be highly stable in soils, surface water, and groundwater. These properties prevent PFAS chemicals from being easily broken in the environment, which is why they can still be found decades after a spill or release and why they are often called “forever chemicals”. More information about PFAS in Rhode Island waters is available at: https://dem.ri.gov/environmental-protection-bureau/water-resources/pfas

The amendments to the Groundwater Quality Rules (250-RICR-150-05-3) propose to do the following:

- Update the PFAS groundwater quality standard sum of 6 specified PFAS to 20ppt reflective of the interim maximum contaminant limit (MCL)
- Only applies to GA and GAA groundwaters

The amendments to the Surface Water Quality Rules (250-RICR-150-05-1) propose to do the following:

- Define “Action Levels”
• Sum of 8 specified PFAS greater than 70ppt requires notification by regulated entities to DEM within 15 calendar days after receipt of analytical results from surface water that exceed action level or receipt of information indicating a discharge of release that can cause an exceedance of the action level in surface water
• Does not require PFAS sampling
• Duplicate reporting exemption for regulated entities already required to report PFAS results to DEM
• Where PFAS action level is exceeded in surface water, DEM may require notification of relevant state agency, impacted communities (e.g. abutters), resampling, or further site investigation
• Shellfishing bacteria criteria changes eliminated reference to a phased out laboratory method to be consistent with current Department practice

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday October 19th, 2023 at 2:00PM in Room 300 of the Department of Environmental Management Offices, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Public comments will be accepted until Friday November 3rd, 2023 at 4:00PM.

Comments on the Groundwater Quality Rules (250-RICR-150-05-3) can be directed to Jon Zwarg at the address above or jonathan.zwarg@dem.ri.gov
Comments on the Surface Water Quality Rules (250-RICR-150-05-1) can be directed to Jane Sawyers at the address above or jane.sawyers@dem.ri.gov

Electronic copies of the proposed regulations are available on the Secretary of State at the following web address: https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/Index/Proposed?Agencies=250&Sortby=relevance

**Direct Links to Rules**


Sincerely,
Jane

**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management**
235 Promenade Street | Room 200 | Providence, RI 02908

Jane Sawyers
Environmental Scientist IV
Monitoring, Assessment, Standards, and TMDL Supervisor
Office of Water Resources
Tel: (401) 222-4700 ext.2777300
Email: jane.sawyers@dem.ri.gov
Website: www.dem.ri.gov
Protect Rhode Island, “The Ocean State”

Save Our Sakonnet

October 9, 2023

The Honorable Governor McKee of the State of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

Dear Governor McKee:

As Rhode Island residents we are concerned about the dangers and risks of the Offshore Wind (OSW) projects that are being discussed and reviewed for approval in RI. We are shocked and disappointed that your administration has taken positions with other Northeast states that significantly harm Rhode Island and its residents. Rhode Island has a long history going back to the American Revolution of steadfast independence to do what is right for our state. We need that type of courageous independence now rather than submitting to the wishes of the wind industry and the desires of Massachusetts and other northeast states.

We are disappointed in how little is known about the harmful impact of OSW on wildlife, fishing, recreation, and the overall RI environment. Instead, we see unsubstantiated positions taken by the wind industry to their own benefit and false narratives that have unfortunately driven much of this debate, echoed over and over again. Renewable energy efforts can either be a favorable reshaping of power needs with a balanced electrical infrastructure or an unmitigated disaster to meet some arbitrary targets.

Our group has spent thousands of hours reviewing hundreds of documents, analyzing data, creating models, and working with other like-minded groups throughout Rhode Island and the United States. Attached is a brief document that summarizes our findings with a focus on many points that you may or may not be aware of. At your request, we can provide you with numerous articles and reports that reinforce each finding. We are also available to meet with you and your staff in any venue that you feel is appropriate to discuss these issues.

We are environmentalists who love Rhode Island and our Ocean State shoreline. However, we believe that we need to take a slower, more pragmatic approach to reducing fossil fuel dependence, rather than reckless arbitrary deadlines that are not founded in either science or reality. And anything we do should not be at the expense of destroying the environment and communities of the state of RI today for some indeterminate future benefit while driving electricity costs to unbelievably higher rates in the near future.

Sincerely,

Joe Forgione    Ed Monaco    Tom Grieb    Dick Hood    Emil Cipolla    Nancy Howard
Portsmouth      Cumberland   Portsmouth   Portsmouth   Portsmouth    Portsmouth
CC: State and Local Officials
Mr. Antonio Afonso, Chief of Staff to the Governor of Rhode Island
Mr. Jeffrey Willis, Chairman CRMC
Mr. Ronald Gerwatowski, Chairman PUC
Speaker Shekarchi, Rhode Island House of Representatives
Senate President Ruggerio, Rhode Island Senate
Senator, Linda Ujifusa, Rhode Island Senate District 11
Representative, Michelle McGaw, Rhode Island House of Representatives District 71
Representative Terri Cortvriend, Rhode Island House of Representatives District 72
Portsmouth Town Council
Newport City Council
Middletown Town Council
Little Compton Town Council

CC: Media
Newport Daily News
What’s Up Newport
Newport This Week
Portsmouth Times
Providence Journal
WPRI
PROTECT RHODE ISLAND FROM UNCHECKED OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT

SAVE OUR SAKONNET

- Are you aware that offshore wind (OSW) is among the most expensive sources of energy we could choose? It is 4.5 times more costly to build than natural gas, more than 2.5 times more costly than land-based wind, and 3 times more costly than solar. In addition, the Operations and Maintenance costs (which are substantial and rising) are 9 times more costly than natural gas, 4 times more costly than land-based wind, and 7 times more costly than solar. This will adversely impact the poorest and elderly residents in RI, and some have characterized renewable energy as a regressive tax.

- Are you aware that offshore wind uses a large variety of scarce minerals, and the US plays a miniscule role in the mining of these minerals? And that 80% of the processing is done at factories in China. And that China continues to build numerous coal-powered plants to power their industries.

- Are you aware that offshore wind can only compete with other energy sources solely because they get subsidies (hidden in general taxes and in place for over 30 years for renewable projects) that can offset 40-50% or more of their capital costs? In effect, RI and the US taxpayers will be funding China’s supply chain and foreign-backed developers such as Orsted and SouthCoast Wind. And, when the subsidies end, and they will end, the cost of electricity will skyrocket, once again hurting the poor and elderly residents the most.

- Are you aware that given that offshore wind developers are being squeezed by rising interest rates and supply chain constraints, there is a concern that they will be unable or unwilling to fund for decommissioning of wind turbines at the end of their useful life? The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) recently loosened its financial regulations opening the door for this to happen. The alternatives to decommissioning are to remain in place or be converted to an artificial reef. The developers want approval in advance of financial viability so they can get the rate increases and their profits locked in.

- Are you aware that once renewables reach about 25% of the energy mix the problems of their intermittency (they cannot be relied upon to provide energy 24/7) kicks in? This means other dispatchable sources of energy, such as natural gas, must be available to fill the gap. Ensuring reliability will be costly and disruptive to the grid. Even Net Zero partisans agree that most of the non-fossil fuel replacements for backup don’t exist now or are not commercially viable. Rhode Island will be faced with outages due to intermittency that only third-world countries previously have seen or be faced with huge rate increases as utilities compete to buy remaining traditional sources of power to close the gap. And, hurting the poor and elderly once more.
• Are you aware that each wind turbine uses a significant amount of fossil fuels in its operations? Note that all the turbines will have an "emergency" diesel generator on board with 793 gallons of storage capacity. Wind turbines also use SF6 (sulfur hexafluoride), the "world’s worst greenhouse gas, 23,900 times more potent than CO2, with an atmospheric lifetime of up to 3,200 years."

• Are you aware that there is indisputable evidence that the wind turbines during prospecting (as a result of sonar disturbance) and construction harm marine mammals? The ROEM has provided no strong evidence that it doesn’t and in fact has skirted the issue to proceed with their approvals. It is no coincidence that the whales are dying and washing up to shore at unprecedented numbers with OSW prospecting activity.

• Are you aware that OSW will significantly harm both commercial and recreational fishing in Rhode Island? In fact, the fisheries council of the CRMC recently resigned and cited the fact that the CRMC and other agencies have not taken this into account and fast-tracked approval. They have called the appropriate question: Is Rhode Island the Ocean State or the Windmill State? We cannot allow any risk to the harm to our fisheries in and around Rhode Island waters.

• Are you aware that the routes proposed through Portsmouth by one of the developers, SouthCoast Wind, have the most significant negative environmental and community impact? There were numerous alternatives that were either NOT considered or categorically dismissed (including viable routes through Massachusetts, the beneficiary of this project) without adequate consideration. Instead, they chose one of the only Type 1 (most pristine) habitats of the Sakonnet River basin in Rhode Island. The impact both during construction and long term to recreation, marine and fowl life, and the environment will be devastating. In effect, Portsmouth and Rhode Island are being risked primarily for the benefit of Massachusetts.

• Also, are you aware that for the SouthCoast Wind Portsmouth route to Brayton Point Massachusetts, 100% of the energy will benefit Massachusetts residents? And that 100% of the risk and safety burden will be to the detriment of Rhode Island. Southcoast admitted this at a PUC/EFSB hearing in which they admitted that they had a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Massachusetts utilities which they were breaking and attempting to renegotiate. It was this activity that led to the PUC/EFSB appropriately issuing a stay for stopping the approval process since Southcoast declared they were NOT financially viable. Our state agencies should not be in the business of supporting wind developers’ business objectives.

• Are you aware that while the industry continues to market the job creation for their wind farm projects even though there is significant evidence that they are a net neutral or negative job creator? They will negatively impact the fishing, tourism, and recreational jobs in the state for a few short-term construction jobs (voters would overwhelmingly prefer our roads and bridges be repaired by union members, rather than building unproven ocean wind factories). And most of the
equipment that will be installed will be manufactured and sourced from outside the United States, not built by US union members. Finally, on an ongoing basis, they will require fewer jobs than traditional gas-powered power plants that will be shut down. The studies they have produced to back their assertion wouldn’t get a passing grade in any Economics 101 university class (or high school). This is just a marketing spin, something that the developers are very good at, in an attempt to get political and union support.

- And finally, with all these severe risks and negative consequences of OSW to Rhode Island and our communities, are you aware that there is **NO environmental benefit**? The impact of reducing Rhode Island’s CO2 emissions, and impact on temperatures, would not be measurable. Moreover, when we build solar and wind farms, we are just exporting our CO2 emissions to the countries (mostly China and the rest of Asia) that supply the steel and most of the minerals comprising them (cobalt, lithium, etc.). In addition, it is well established that CO2 emissions are “well-mixed”, meaning that all such emissions equalize in the earth’s atmosphere within a short amount of time. Consequently, China’s CO2 emissions will find their way back to us. Unless there is a proposal to put a glass bubble around the entire state of Rhode Island, which we haven’t seen any budget or plans to do, we will not see any of the minuscule benefits over safe and lower-cost gas-powered electric plants as we transition to affordable and reliable energy alternatives.
Dear Carol Wordell,

My name is Ella Garrett, and my fiancé Ian Gale and I are interested in having an intimate wedding ceremony at Town Landing on June 15th, 2024 at 4pm. Ian and I have been dating for 9 years and recently got engaged on Lloyds beach this past May. We are both originally from New York City, having met in high school, but my family currently lives in Little Compton. My mother just recently bought a house on Indian Road where we plan to have our wedding reception.

Ian and I currently live in Providence, though we spend most weekends in Little Compton. It is a dream of ours to get married at Town Landing, due to the beauty of the location and the meaning it has for us. Over the past 9 years together, Ian and I had many dates at Town Landing and would love to be able to share our special moment with the people who mean the most to us, in the location that means the most to us.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. My phone number is 917-833-5957 and Ian’s phone number is 917-392-1473. Again, the ceremony would be on June 15th at 4pm and would only last about 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Thank you!

Best,

Ella Garrett
November is Family Court Awareness Month. The month of November provides an excellent opportunity for Little Compton, Rhode Island to demonstrate its support in recognizing the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interest of children.

The effort organized by Tina Swithin of One Mom’s Battle and Sandra Ross of California Protective Parents Association, was joined by The National Family Violence Law Center, The Court Said USA, Piqui’s Justice, Kayden’s Korner Foundation, Kyra Franchetti Foundation, Florida Protective Parents Association, and The Pollack Group LLC. All of these organizations are determined to bring awareness to the conservatively estimated 58,000 children a year who are ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents, where hundreds of children were murdered.

In 2022, 366 jurisdictions, including the states of Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, and West Virginia, publicly demonstrated their commitment to child safety in the family court system. Mayors, county officials, and governors around the country have pledged their support with proclamations and or resolutions officially declaring the month of November as Family Court Awareness Month in their respective communities.

During the inaugural 2020 Family Court Awareness Month, top advocates in the family court system joined forces in a united effort to honor hundreds of children who have been reported as murdered by parents in family court cases, that included five-year-old “Piqui” Andressian, who was murdered because of a California family court failure; seven-year-old Kayden Mancuso, who was murdered because of a Pennsylvania family court failure; two-year-old Kyra Franchetti murdered because of a New York family court failure; and four-year-old Greyson Kessler because of a Florida Family Court failure.

Our goal for Family Court Awareness Month 2023, is to shine a spotlight on our family court system lacking proper training. Family court professionals should receive training surrounding the topics they rule about every day, which include domestic violence, child sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, trauma, coercive control, as well as victim and perpetrator behaviors.

Many are shocked to discover that most states do not have mandated domestic violence training requirements prior to a judicial officer presiding over family court cases and ultimately, are misguided in determining the fate of innocent children who are living with familial violence. In the states that do have requirements for domestic violence training, it is very minimal, in fact in at least one state, barbers and beauticians have more mandated domestic violence training than do its judges.

Many families in our community are struggling in silence and facing the reality that child safety is not being prioritized, and that our bench officials need tools to help ensure children are not living trapped in trauma and abuse, and even worse, dying at the hands of a dangerous parent.

Here is the proposed wording for the proclamation:
WHEREAS, the mission of the Family Court Awareness Month Committee (FCAMC) is to increase awareness on the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interest of children, and;

WHEREAS, the mission at the FCAMC is fueled by the desire to create awareness and change in the family court system for the conservatively estimated, 58,000 children a year ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents, while honoring the hundreds of children who have been reported as murdered during visitation with a dangerous parent, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is to increase awareness on the importance of empirically-based education and training on domestic violence and child abuse, including emotional, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, as well as childhood trauma, coercive control, and post separation abuse for judges and all professionals working on cases within the family court system, and;

WHEREAS, the mission of the FCAMC is to increase awareness on the importance of using scientifically valid, evidence-based, treatment programs and services that are proven in terms of safety, effectiveness, and therapeutic value, and;

WHEREAS, the mission at the FCAMC is to educate judges and other family court professionals on evidence-based, peer-reviewed research. Such research is a critical component to making decisions that are truly in the best interest of children. This research includes The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study (co-principal investigator: Vincent Felitti, Kaiser Permanente-CDC); Child Custody Evaluators’ Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations (principal investigator: Daniel Saunders, University of Michigan, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice); and Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations (principal investigator: Joan S. Meier, GW Law School, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice), and;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, __________________________ hereby declare the Month of NOVEMBER, to be FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH.

I encourage all residents to support their local communities’ efforts to prevent the harm of children in the hands of family members and to honor and value the lives of children.

If you, or your staff, have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or respond to this email. I will follow-up with your office on this request in the next few days. As always, we appreciate your support. Thank you for considering this very important request.

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Annie Kenny, President
Family Court Awareness Month
A National Child Safety Campaign
www.familycourtawarenessmonth.org

Family Court Awareness Month is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.