

The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SUMMER 2011



The GREEN LIGHT

LV No. 2 SUMMER 2011

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Meetings are generally scheduled for the first Monday of the month and are open to Association members. Please call Jeff for time, date, and location.

Copies of *The Green Light* may be purchased for \$1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store, Poplar at Thames.



The Point Association

The Point Association is a group of neighbors working together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by getting to know each other; preserving our historic heritage; maintaining the Point's residential character; beautifying our parks, streets, and piers; and promoting public policies that strengthen all

of Newport's neighborhoods.

Cover:

Photo courtesy of Herb Armstrong



Change is in the air... or at least it's being talked about a lot. This spring has seen discussions of the Pell Bridge ramps, the reuse of Navy lands, FEMA Flood Plain Zone Mapping, and the Hunter Park mural project. In this issue we report on some of the issues that may have the greatest impact on our neighborhood.

The Point Association is also undergoing change, as the President's Letter indicates. Jeff Marshall will be leaving, heading south to a balmy climate. Peter Tea has also informed the Executive Committee that he will be leaving the Point but his move will be just down the road a piece to another part of town. We want to thank both Jeff and Peter for the many years of service they have rendered to the Executive Committee and to the community; we wish them well in this next chapter of their lives. They will both be missed.

Alice Clemente

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The past month has been very active at 59 Second Street.

For some time we have intended to look for a new home somewhat south of Newport and planned a scouting trip for late April. By surprise, just before the trip, we were approached with a fair offer to buy our house and we have accepted. Closing set for June 14th.

So our trip to look became more focused. We now have found a very nice place just outside Chapel Hill, NC.

The by-laws call for the executive committee to select the replacement with a new election to take place at the next annual meeting. In the meantime, the committee has asked Beth Cullen to step up. She has agreed.

Our time in Newport has been wonderful, made great in large part by our neighborhood and neighbors. I have enjoyed all my connections with the Point Association.

When we visit Newport in the future we expect to see an even nicer place. No traffic problems on Thames and Farewell. A beautiful remake of the Navy Hospital grounds with residences and a waterfront park. A welcoming mural on the Hunter Park wall. All the wires underground.

Thank you all.

Jeff Marshall



*Thank You, Jeff
For all your
contributions to
the neighborhood*

KUDOS AND CLAMSHELLS

by Ed Madden

According to Webster's dictionary, the meaning of KUDOS is "praise, approval, glory or renown". The ubiquitous clamshell needs no definition but perhaps a clarification of its usage herein. We are talking about the Newport, RI, clamshell that has lost its brilliant luster, is broken in one or more pieces with sharp edges, lying in wait just beneath the last wave at Easton's Beach for the unwary bare foot to get speared. This broken shell has been picked clean by the seagulls and is awash with sand and dirt – an unwanted part of the flotsam and jetsam entangled in the beach's seaweed. The author has chosen to award either kudos or clamshells to the following entities.

We are all aware of the taboo re: the "N word." The author has also chosen to add to this list the "L word" and the "C word". Read on.

- Kudos to the RI teenager who can compose and utter a sentence in the English language without the use of the "L word", i.e., "LIKE".

- Clamshells to the vast majority of teens and then some who "like just can't like express themselves without like using the "L word" to like complete a thought.

- Kudos to the post teen adult who has developed a sufficient vocabulary with an ample supply of meaningful words, so that he/she can respond to a descriptive phrase in spoken English with something other than the "C word", i.e., COOL.

N.B. I give a pass to teens on this item since their DNA is inherently incapable of any other form of expression. It is hoped, however, that with time and maturity there will be a genetic mutation away from their DNA "cool" gene.

- Clamshells to the so-called adults who remain stuck in the COOL quicksand – like the sweet, kindly grandmother who recently blindsided me with this word in the midst of what I thought was a fairly intelligent adult conversation!

Now for the more meaningful awards. (I just had to get the preceding out of my craw)

- Kudos to Newport BioDiesel and Geothermal.

- Kudos to all the contractors and architects who are incorporating modern, state of the art green energy and LEED building technology in their practices.

- Clamshells to the manufacturers of overgrown SUVs and Hummers. Have you seen the S-T-R-E-T-C-H Hummer limousine in town? Looks like you could move a platoon of marines and still have room for a marching band!

- Kudos to the RI Aviation Hall of Fame for pursuing the aircraft carrier USS Kennedy to be the linchpin for a naval museum on Aquidneck Island. They deserve all the support and encouragement we can give them.

- Kudos to the country of Denmark. 40% of their energy comes from wind farms! They are also developing a nationwide network to recharge car batteries to accommodate a planned universal fleet of electric cars, buses and trucks.

- Kudos to the new signage at Fort Adams State Park. It really gives a very warm, classy, welcoming greeting to all the visitors.

- Clamshells to the electrified SLOTS sign outside Newport Grand. Is this really what visitors and locals alike are supposed to think coming over the bridge, i.e., that this is what Newport is really all about?

As an aside – my vote for two of the ugliest sounding words in the English language is for the couplet "slots" and "sluts"!

- Kudos to Portsmouth Abbey School and the town of Portsmouth for their wind turbines. May this be just the first step in the journey of 1000 miles (as the Chinese proverb says) for the renewable energy crusade and the burial of the fossil-fuel dragon.

- Clamshells to the coal-fired Brayton Point power plant in Fall River. This is the largest source of pollution in New England!

(Continued on page 17)

PROJECT MURAL ON THE POINT

by Isabel Griffith

For those Pointers who do not walk there often, Hunter Park is just north of the Van Zandt Bridge. Look right as you cross the bridge towards the water. The park is a bright green saucer shape with a baseball field next to the bridge and tennis courts at the other end. If you have spent much time "down in the park" over the past few years you are aware of the constant battle the city faces in an effort to paint over graffiti that accumulates on the wall supporting the bridge. The graffiti is ugly; the "patch up" paint job to cover it is not attractive.

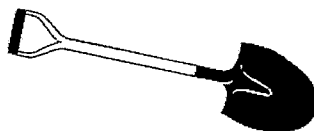
In the fall of 2010, after much discussion, Newport's Clean City Program announced the formation of a collaborative work team, "Project Mural," to address the problem of graffiti tagging on the wall in Hunter Park. Supporting this effort are the Women's Resource Center

and their Newport COVE (Communities Overcoming Violence) program; the Arts & Cultural Alliance of Newport County; the Old Colony and Newport Railway; the Alliance for a Livable Newport; the Metropolitan Regional Career Center (MET) school; and the Point Association. Ben Ellcome, an arts consultant for MET school, is directing Project Mural. Ellcome has an extensive arts background working with teens and artists in creating public art.

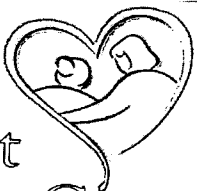
Ben looks forward to the opportunity to produce a large piece of community art — 3,000 square feet — that will "bring voices to the table that haven't been heard before." This will be the largest piece of public art in Newport. With input from diverse Newport communities, design for the mural is ongoing. Pointers will be given an opportunity for input about the project at a Point meeting to be scheduled soon. Ideally, the mural painting will commence and be completed in July with interested community members given an opportunity to take part in the work. The Hunter Park mural is the first of what should be more opportunities for public art in Newport.


A Turn to 10 video (Oct. 25, 2010) about the project can be accessed through this link:

<http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2010/oct/25/project-mural-targets-newport-graffiti-ar-270210/>




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NEWPORT PASTOR, CHARLES TIMOTHY BROOKS (1813-1883)

by Tom Kennedy

Born in Salem, Massachusetts, educated at the Salem Latin School, Harvard College and Cambridge Divinity School, Charles Timothy Brooks would settle in Newport in 1837 as assistant to William Ellery Channing in pastoring his Unitarian Church, and would call Newport his home for the next forty-six years. In that same year he would marry Harriet Lyman Hazard, daughter of Benjamin Hazard, an eminent lawyer and legislator of Newport. He is described as having a delicate constitution and a frail physique, but possessing the face of cherubic grace and an abundance of wit and charm. His Christianity was liberal and his social life was active and full. He distinguished himself as preacher, scholar, translator, poet and writer.

Inspired by his teacher, Dr. Follen, at Harvard, Charles took a special interest in the German language and German literature, an interest which would remain with him throughout his life. Charles translated a great number of works from German, among them Goethe's *Faust* and selections from Schiller and Jean Paul Richter. His other notable writings include a biography of William Ellery Channing, his mentor, a study of the controversy over the origins of the Old Stone Mill, and several books of poetry. He was also a devoted follower of Abraham Lincoln and an adversary of slavery and its supporters. "His well-known antislavery sentiments awakened at times much displeasure in his

parish. At the close of a sermon in which he had spoken his mind on the subject, an influential parishioner said to him, 'I have felt for some time that you must go, but now I am sure of it.'" (Wendte, "Life", 14) Charles was a student at Harvard in 1832, when Emerson gave his famous epoch making sermon at that institution, resigning his post due to religious scruples. Young Charles fell under the spell of Emerson and Transcendentalism and its liberal views. Later he would contribute articles to the *Dial* and the *North American Review*, popular outlets for these views.

In addition to his church and family, Rev. Brooks devoted much time and attention to three pursuits: the school system of Newport, the Redwood Library, and the social gatherings of Julia Ward Howe's Town and Country Club. He served for twenty years as a member of the Newport school board. "He was for a long period a director [of the Redwood Library] and at the time of his death the vice president." (*Poems*, Memoir, 101) Many of those meetings were hosted by the Bigelows at their estate on Washington Street, where Rev. Brooks was a popular and beloved guest. Once, after an extended tour of Europe in 1866, Charles was greeted by an assembly of parishioners and friends, "at which Col. T.W. Higginson made an address and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and Henry W. Tuckermann read poems of welcome." (*Poems*, Memoir, 89-90)

Shortly before his death, Charles Brooks was instrumental in supporting the construction of the Channing Memorial Church. "By personal appeals, by newspaper and personal correspondence, and in other ways he contributed largely to the enterprise. From day to day he

(Continued on page 15)



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HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR FLOOD INSURANCE PREMIUMS LATELY??

(Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Flood Insurance Rate Changes)
by Andy Lavarre

A recent revision of the FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for the Point area has resulted in a wide range of changes in flood insurance rates and policies that appear to be arbitrary and incoherent. (Flood insurance is separate from ordinary homeowners insurance and normally is quoted and billed separately. It may, however, be lumped in to your mortgage payment.)

FEMA has established a number of avenues for taxpayers to protest changes in the FIS that unfairly affect their insurance. The procedures are outlined at <http://tinyurl.com/69xf52l>.

A number of Point Association members are pursuing these paths so we solicit your input. (You can of course submit forms individually, but we're looking to make it easier for all with a coherent action as a group.)

Please examine your flood insurance premiums and policies for recent changes. Please report details to alavarre@gmail.com with the following data if you wish to participate:

- Annual premium before September 2010
- Annual premium after September 2010
- Insurance Company
- Home Street Address

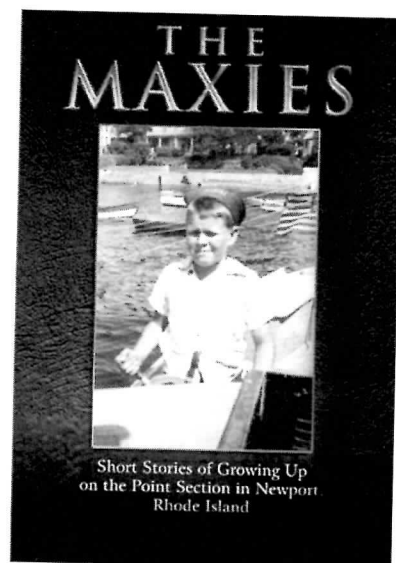
The remainder of this article summarizes the underlying details of this process. (All of our citations in this article refer to the most recent revision of the FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Newport County, RI, FIS # 44005CV000A. The PDF document is available for viewing (free) or download (\$5.00) at FEMA: <http://tinyurl.com/63mhvzp>.)

A consequence of the revision has been a wide range of changes in premiums and policies. Some examples (see zone descriptions below):

- A property outside the AE zone had its premiums quintupled from \$400 per year to \$1900 per year.

(Continued on page 14)

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A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from Isabella Casey (Issy)

A reader of the Green Light perusing the first four decades or so of the journal would see there many references to the children of the Point and their activities; as the 1990s progress, these references disappear. Was that an editorial decision? It appears not. The disappearance of the focus on the Point as a family neighborhood appears to have been the result of a changing demographic that transformed the Point for a time into one where absentee/seasonal owners replaced many of the earlier residents. Activities for, and the voices of children fell by the wayside in large measure and the consequences remain. That is why this letter from Issy Casey, who many of us know as the granddaughter of Jane Hence, struck a chord. The GL is pleased to announce that the Point Association has been discussing the matter of activities for children for some time now and has decided to reinstitute one of the old traditions, at least, the Point Halloween Parade (see notice elsewhere in this issue). The GL is also pleased to print Issy's letter with the hope of eliciting more good ideas for her and the other young people of our neighborhood. Thank you, Issy.

TO THE EDITOR:

As a grandchild on the Point (from the age of three), I have recently become aware of a certain concern among some about the decreasing "presence" of children's and teenagers' voices in the community.

I write this letter because I had thought recently of putting some form of notice in the spring [summer] issue of the *Green Light*, but I discovered that there is no space or forum for this within the Point quarterly. I am an experienced baby-sitter, Red Cross certified, with references (available upon request) from three Point residents. I am in the seventh grade, on Student Council and have been on the Honors list since fifth grade. I greatly enjoy children and spend my time directly involved with them.

My mother and I had been talking about ways I could increase my summer baby-sitting and thought of the *Green Light* because my grandmother, Jane Hence, lives on the Point and we knew of the Point's *Green Light* and I know many people who live there. I have since learned that there seems to be no way at this time for children and/or teenagers to have a voice

in this community. It would have been wonderful if I had been able to list my baby-sitting services in some kind of teenagers' bulletin board or a "Children of the Point" column or something similar which would have allowed me to list my qualifications and other relevant information.

Perhaps the *Green Light* might consider establishing such a forum for children on or involved with the Point community.

Very sincerely, Isabella Casey (Issy)

Babysitting Services - Isabella Casey (Issy)

401.855.5050 ~ 401.848.5301

sunsetbeach98@gmail.com



References Available Upon Request

Red Cross Certified

7th Grade ~ Honors Student



vipnewportri@verizon.net

VIDEO IMAGE PRODUCTIONS

On June 30, 2011, We are shutting down our digital cameras and turning off the lights for the last time.

Video Image Productions is closing.

From video I edited for the congressional hearing in the appropriation of funds for the Sarajevo firefighters; to the cable TV program frontline; to the two history channel programs; to three successful fundraising campaign Videos in Newport County; the month-long Christmas In Newport Production; the loyalty and years of St. George's School Graduations and Events and the Newport Music Festival and the countless number of promotions, productions, seminars, conferences, weddings, and various forms of duplication . . . Too many to mention here. It was a good 27 years. I looked forward to every day and never grew tired of it.

Thank you all, it was a good run.

Sincerely,

Edward A. (Ned) Sherman III

BATTERY PARK: THE LAST FOOTNOTE

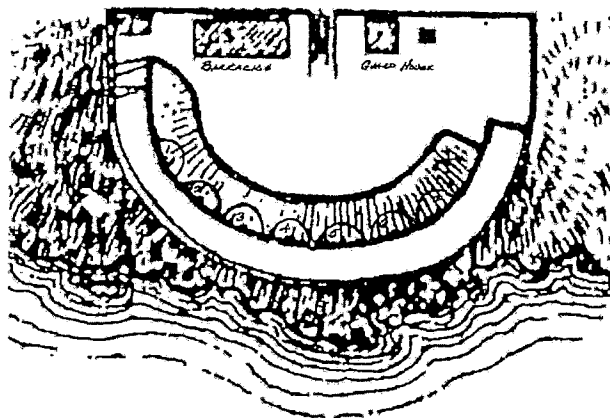
by Ralph C. Weiss

There are two questions about Fort Greene, now Battery Park, that have never been resolved. The first is how many cannon were housed in this fort? Second, did the fort have a dungeon?

In 1794, the coastal fortifications of the United States were divided into sections. The New England section was assigned to Lieut. Col. Stephen Rochefontaine, a position he held until he retired in 1798. Rochefontaine built the fort on Goat Island and a white granite block with his name was originally placed in the entryway to Fort Washington, later known as Fort Wolcott. This granite block with his name was discovered in a foundation upside down in one of the buildings that was demolished in the 1960s during the reconstruction of Goat Island. In 1794, he was given only \$30,000 to spend on all of the sites in New England. "His forts for the most part were smaller redoubts of stone and sod, mounting only 10 to 14 guns — skimpy armaments for a time when cannon were pointed rather than aimed. These weapons were cast-iron, smoothbore muzzle loaders, the service guns used until the Civil War." This report may be based on Cullum's mistake of describing Fort Greene as having "12 or 13 guns".

In 1802, a school to educate engineers under the leadership of Stephen Rochefontaine was established at West Point by the Congress of the United States. The group of engineering students, who gathered at West Point in November 1802, formed the Military Philosophical Society. The Society existed for 10 years and consisted of the leading civilians of the nation and officers of the Army and the Navy. In addition to Joseph G. Swift, there were a total of 15 students that were the founders of the Society. Jonathan Williams and Alexander Newcomb were among the founding members along with such notables as William K. Armistead and Joseph G. Totten. A report dated February 13, 1808, of the condition of the forts in New England was made by Williams and Newcomb, according to a letter from Gen. Joseph G. Swift to Benjamin J. Loosing. The report by Williams and Newcomb included a description of Fort Greene. Their report

states, "North Battery — a semicircular (battery), and calculated for about eight guns. It is unfinished."



The report is part of the records of the Society that are now in the New York Historical Society. The Williams and Newcomb report on Fort Greene fits the picture that is seen today of the seven gun or cannon rails on the ground and possibly the eighth hidden by tree roots on the north side of Battery Park. The eighth cannon on the North side may have been to cover that flank. Therefore, it is concluded that in Fort Greene there was no second-tier of cannon nor were there cannon mounted in pairs on platforms.

In 1807, Maj. Joseph G. Swift was in Newport to build the Second System of fortifications. Due to the possibility of war with England after the Leopard and Chesapeake Affair off the Virginia Capes, all coastal fortifications were ordered to be strengthened. By October 1809, Swift reported that his engineering work was complete. There is no record of any work complete at Fort Greene before the War of 1812, and after the war it remains in caretaker status until it is sold. John J. Totten, as a young officer, helped Major Swift strengthen harbor defenses in New England in 1808-9. In 1824, Maj. John J. Totten became the supervisor of Fort Adams, which would soon replace the fort on Goat Island as the major harbor defense.

Rochefontaine's fort on Goat Island included a prison or dungeon, as described by Grace Herreshoff. She gives this description of the inside of the fort on Goat Island, "...embankments with passages, partly underground; leading into these are little doors at intervals in the walls, one of which, is a corner of the enclosure,"

(Continued on page 12)

RULES FOR THE USE OF OUR DRIFTWAYS

by Joan Simmons

On April 22, 2009, the City Council, in conjunction with the waterfront commission and input from residents of the Point, revised the harbor rules and regulations with reference to dinghy and other small watercraft storage. There are nine of these areas along the harbor, and the Point has 8 of the designated storage areas: Battery, Cherry, Chestnut, Cypress, Pine, Poplar, Walnut and Willow streets, with Kings Park the only other seasonal storage area. These areas are wonderful for people to store small vessels to get to their boats on moorings, or for a paddle around the harbor. Before the ordinance was passed, people would bring dinghies, rubber rafts, zodiacs, canoes, small sail boats, surfboards and kayaks to the driftways and keep them there, attaching them to trees, private fences and anything they could get a chain or cable around. They were supposed to be removed by December 1st, but prior to 2009, many were left there over the winter. Many were put there, forgotten, and left to deteriorate. It became very crowded and unsightly, with trash collecting around the abandoned and decaying boats. Battery Park driftway had over 40 boats stored there. After the new rules were enacted, the Harbormaster had to remove over 20 unregistered and abandoned boats from just one of the driftways.

The new ordinance requires people who want to store a vessel on a driftway to fill out a Dinghy Registration form at the tax collector's office. The following text is taken directly from the Harbor Rules and Regulations. "Designated waterfront storage areas shall be kept clear of all obstructions which may impede access to the water. Dinghies and other watercraft less than 14 feet and/or acceptable to the Harbormaster that are kept in designated waterfront storage areas must be registered annually with the City of Newport and display valid stickers. Residents have a \$40 annual fee and non-residents a \$60 fee. The applicant will receive a sticker that must be attached to the transom of the vessel. The city will maintain on file the sticker registration number, a photo and a description of the vessel, the name, address, and phone number of the owner. Waterfront storage capacity will be determined

by the Harbormaster. Any vessel using the designated waterfront storage area and not properly registered with the city will be removed by the Harbormaster and subject to a fine and recovery fee. Waterfront storage areas are available for the period of April 1 through November 30th of each year."

Being able to store a vessel for the season is a wonderful benefit for residents and non residents in Newport. It is convenient to be able to go to your boat and get out of the water without having to struggle with loading and unloading your car. Many people who live in condos or apartments and have boats on moorings in the harbor have no storage areas for their small vessels. Non residents have to be concerned about parking restrictions after 6 pm May 1 to October 31. The driftways are noticeably cleaner and easier to access, since the rules and regulations were developed and we began to include the driftways in Point cleanups in the spring and fall. The Point is so fortunate to have this wonderful benefit in our neighborhood. Please help keep these wonderful water access points clean and accessible. Blocking or obstructing of a driftway with a vehicle, trailer or any nonconforming object should be reported to the Harbormaster.

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*Photos by
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(Continued from page 9)

opening into an old prison in the tunnel. The description of Fort Wolcott in Loosing's Field Book says that Fort Greene was built in a similar manner. The photograph, with the caption, "The Entrance to the Dungeon of Fort Greene", should be taken at face value.

¹ Parkman, A., *Army Engineers in New England*, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division, Waltham, Mass, 1978.

² *ibid.* page 9.

³ *Ibid.* page 9.

⁴ Cullum, George W., *Fortification Defenses of Narragansett Bay*, Washington, 1884.

⁵ Loosing, Benson J., *Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812*, New York, Harper and Brothers, 1860, volume 2, chapter 12, footnote 3 through 5.



Based on the footnote found in Loosing's Field Book and Grace Herreshoff's observation, I concluded that Fort Greene was built for seven or eight cannon and had a dungeon.

⁶ *ibid.* page 13

⁷ *ibid.* page 13

⁸ *ibid.* page 17

⁹ Herreshoff, Grace, "The U. S. Naval Torpedo Station", 1909, published in the *Tales of the New England Coast*, compiled by Frank Oppel, Castle, 1985, page 312.

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AIRPA HEARING ON SURPLUS NAVY LANDS: NEWPORT NAVAL HOSPITAL

by Lauren Carson

(Reprinted from the ALN newsletter)

On Thursday, April 7th, The Aquidneck Island Reuse Planning Authority (AIRPA) presented a set of alternatives for the Newport Naval Station's 225 acres of surplus land on Aquidneck Island. The public meeting was held at the Community College of Rhode Island in Newport. The only Newport site, the Naval Hospital, is located on Third Street, and is seven acres, with three of the acres submerged land in the Bay. The remaining parcels are in either Middletown or Portsmouth.

The meeting opened with a review of the characteristics of each parcel. The hospital site, which has been vacant for 12 years, faces several critical environmental challenges: there are above ground storage tanks, hazardous materials, asbestos, and lead on the site. It is located in a flood plain, is a Narragansett Bay habitat and is zoned residential at this time.

Following a thorough economic review of land use and the commercial, residential and industrial real estate market on Aquidneck Island over the past 12-15 years, both the staff of AIRPA and RKG Associates, consultants assigned to this project, presented various scenarios for the possible uses of each of the surplus parcels.

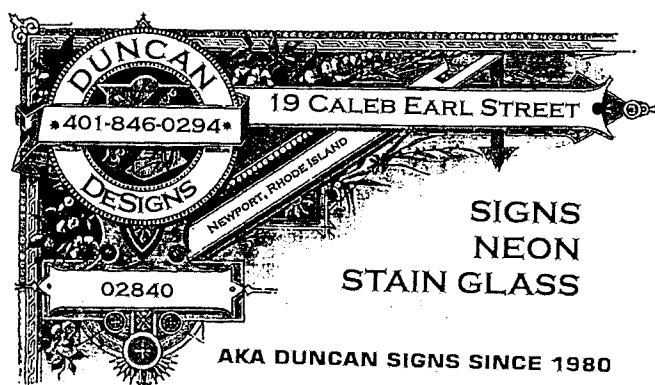
The Hospital property, located just north of the Pell Bridge ramp, on the northern end of The Point, adjacent to Navy property has four possible uses: Potential mixed use, combining a three story hotel with 100-120 rooms

and commercial property; a three story hotel with some residential use; all residential use in the form of condominiums or office and R&D use without any residential, commercial or hotel. All four scenarios contained a waterfront park with public access, a pier and various marina options. The assumptions for any of these uses are that all environmental remediation could be completed, ample security would meet requirements by the neighboring Navy, and Newport zoning changes would be made to implement the usage plan chosen.

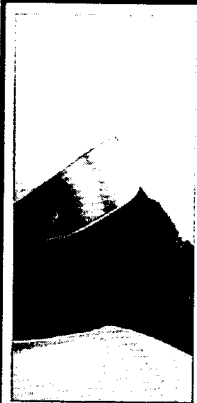
In a small group session that focused upon the Hospital parcel, Newport residents raised their concerns. They were interested in a usage plan with the least traffic and impact upon Third Street; they wanted good pedestrian access to the waterfront, pier and the park; they wanted positive economic impact on the surrounding area and the City; they wanted to integrate the usage plan with the existing Point's residential plan; and they wanted any future changes to traffic patterns off of the Pell Bridge to be considered in the new use plans.

Over the next weeks, both AIRPA and RKS will begin narrowing the alternatives for the use of the surplus lands and begin formulating the reuse plans, which they expected to have ready before summer, sometime early June. The final reuse plan is to be submitted to both HUD and Department of Defense in August 2011.

Public hearings are [were] scheduled for May offering Newport residents another opportunity to review the plans and offer input in the reuse plans for the surplus parcels.



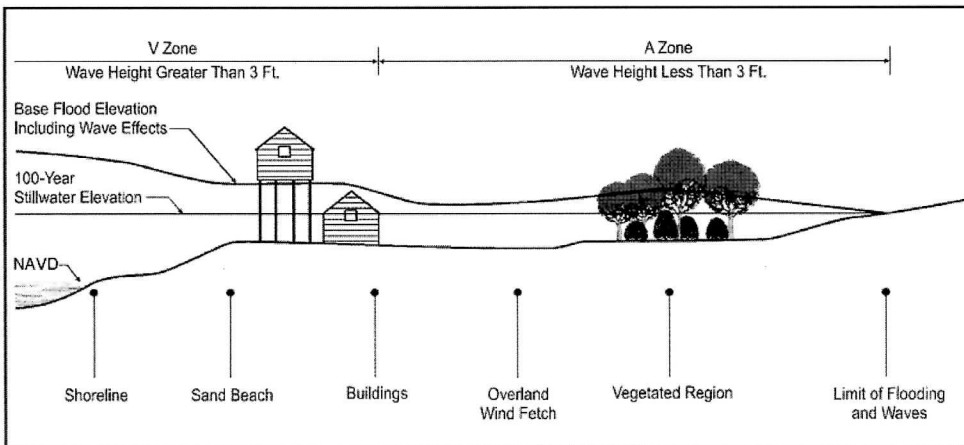
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(Continued from page 7)

- A condominium in the same zone across the street had its premiums only doubled.
- A house in the X zone outside the flood plain near the highest point on the island had its premiums *cancelled*.

So how to make sense of this mayhem? A quick tutorial is summarized by this graphic (FIS p. 37):



These are the values used to measure water levels and predict storm flood elevations. The collective horizontal profile is called a transect. The report details these in pp.23-36. Each transect comprises:

- The normal water level reference "Datum"
- The "stillwater" (static) storm water level
- The "hydraulic" (dynamic) water level resulting from wind

Cumulatively these result in your home being listed in one of several zones:

- V, VE zones are almost certain to be flooded in a major storm
- A, AE zones are likely to be flooded with a 1% chance in any year
- X zones are likely to be flooded with a 0.2% chance in any year.

Of course, the matter is much more complicated. But there seems to be no justification for the recent changes in premiums or policies based on this report:

- The actual water heights have

not changed ("Datums" have been changed from a 1929 Datum (NVGD29) to a 1988 Datum (NAVD88) but the actual water heights have not changed).

- The Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) have not changed (they have been digitized and reoriented to North).
- The Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the work "with no changes in existing wave height analysis recommended" (FIS p.3)

So a collective reclama is indicated, in which you are invited to participate. Please check your flood insurance premiums.

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(Continued from page 6)

watched the building of the new edifice. When at last it was completed, and the beautiful structure was crowded with a grateful congregation, and dedicated with imposing services to the ideals and uses of Liberal Christianity, how it increased the thankfulness and joy of life of the people to behold among them this saintly man, whose thirty-seven years of faithful ministry had made possible the hour of triumph and congratulation, and to whom the Channing Memorial Church will ever remain a monument, as truly as to the great man whose name is graven on its fore-front." (*Poems, Memoir*, 103)

The following poem, "Aquidneck," is a short version of a much longer work, published as a single volume, which Mr. Brooks delivered in 1848 on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Redwood Library Company. In his notes to the longer version, Brooks points out that "Aquidneck" means "Isle of Peace" in its original Native American language. He ends this lofty, pentametered paean to nature, human freedom, and nature's God with a quotation from Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

AQUIDNECK

Hail, fair Aquidneck! Though thine ancient name
Sound strange, Rhode Island, in the mouth of Fame,
It hath a music sweet to Fancy's ear,
To Nature, once, and Nature's children dear.
Time was when many a Narragansett heard
Melodious echoes in that homely word:
The swell and cadence of the lonely sea
Along whose marge he wandered, proud and free;
The song the air sang where his arrow flew,

The music waves made with his light canoe;
The sweet, though saddening moan of wind and wave,
That, haunting sandy beach and pebbly cave,
As evening fell, with low and tender sound,
Like the Great Spirit's voice, went murmuring round.

"Aquidneck" – still it speaks to Fancy's eye
Thy noble charms of sea and shore and sky:
The bold, bald rock that beetles o'er the surge;
The bold green bank that hangs o'er ocean's verge;
The spray-wreathed headland stretching toward the
deep;

The clouds that on thy far horizon sleep;
And all the beauty, majesty and grace
Thou hast of Nature's changeful, changeless face.

Hail, pleasant isle! How freshly shine to-day
The sky, the beach, the breaker, and the bay
Where o'er thy rocks the spray-born rainbows play!
Though the light deer no more thy greensward tread,
And many a song of olden days is fled,
Yet there's a glory haunts the sapphire sky,
The emerald slope and swell – not soon shall die.
Old Ocean's bosom heaves with pride for thee;
And bends the eye of Day with love to see
Thine inland beauty and thy seaward sweep,
O fair 'midst fairest daughters of the deep!
Then hail, sweet spot! My heart's adopted home!
Where'er my feet may rest, my fancy roam;
There's no green isle, on all the broad blue sea,
Can win away the love I bear to thee.

Aquidneck – Isle of Peace! Not always rest,
With thee, the wearied winds on Ocean's breast;
Not always airy fingers, stretching o'er

(Continued on page 20)

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(Continued from page 15)

The tuneful chords, unseen, from shore to shore,
Glide, with low tones, across the watery floor.
Yet in the maddest war of wind and wave,
By frowning cliff or hoarsely echoing cave,
Whispers transcendent Peace, her lofty form
Beauty reveals, and grace enrobes the storm;
Till Heaven and Hope once more serenely smile
On this health-breathing, beauty-haunted isle.

O ye who here have had your childhood's home,
And ye who one brief hour of summer roam
These winding shores to breathe the bracing breeze,
And feel the freedom of the skies and seas,
Think what exalted, sainted minds once found
The sod, the sand ye tread on, holy ground!
They are gone hence, - the large and lofty souls;
And still the cliff abides, the ocean rolls;
And still, where Reason rears its beacon-rock,
The Powers of Darkness dash with angry shock.
Not here, at least, oh, let not here the soul
Yield up its thought to any low control;
Not here where, in the anthem of the deep,
And of the chainless winds that o'er it sweep,
The spirit cries with multitudinous voice:

"O man! Be free, be reverent, and rejoice!"
Not here shall man, God's offspring, formed to rise
And hold communion with his native skies,
Cling to the creed that ignorance is bliss,
And indolence is glory! - not in this
Great Presence, where the vast, unresting sea
Wakes "thoughts that wander through eternity."
(*Poems*, 177-179)

WORKS CONSULTED

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"Brooks, Charles T." *Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Rhode Island*. Providence: National Biographical Publishing Company. 1881.

Wendte, Charles W. "His [C. T. Brooks] Life at Newport". *Essex Institute Historical Collections*. Vol. 21. Salem, Mass: 1884: 13-23.

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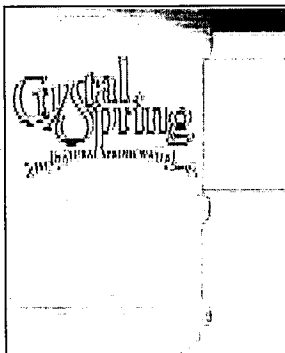
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(Continued from page 4)

- A very “qualified” kudos for the proposed off-shore wind farms for Nantucket Sound and federal/state waters off RI. The concept of free renewable energy should be just that; the sun, wind, tidal flow, etc. are the free gifts of Mother Nature to mankind. (Oil, natural gas, nuclear and coal are neither free nor renewable.) Mankind will have to pay for the harnessing of nature’s bounty by supplying the generation, storage, distribution and maintenance of the infrastructure that is a given. But once it is up and running, I would expect the cost would be quite reasonable. Why then are 3.5% escalators built in to the off-shore wind industry every year for the next 15 years? If you do the math, this comes to 42.5% increase in payments over 15 years! These figures always seem to be hidden in the small print at the end of glowing P.R. releases by the entrepreneurs. I thought the selling point to the consumer would be the savings this would bring – not a higher starting rate than we already pay and then steadily rising energy bills. I wish someone would explain how this is going to be beneficial to our wallets.

- But to end on a happy note – kudos to the U.S. Navy that has decreed that all naval stations in the U.S. should try

to become as energy efficient as possible. This equates to the Naval Base on Aquidneck Island establishing multiple wind turbines along the route of the Burma Road. This location should keep the N.I.M.B.Y.s quiet and avoid the epileptic attacks, wind turbine disease syndrome and bird slaughter that threaten to produce a modern day scourge and plague!

QED



A Seasonal Resident (Maitland Court)

Photo by Tom Kennedy

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WASHINGTON STREET EXTENSION (WSE) APPEAL

by Liz Mathinos

The headline in the *Newport Daily News* of July 21, 2010 was, "Court says street is city's property." The article documented the results of years of litigation over Washington Street Extension. As expected, good citizens, that Superior Court decision by Judge Stephen P. Nugent is on appeal to the Supreme Court.

In checking with City Solicitor Joe Nicholson, he said that A12 statements were filed by both sides, and a meeting with the Judge assigned to the case to review facts and to decide whether case goes forward to a full briefing would be held. First step in the process was mediation, usual in a non-monetary case. The plaintiffs incurred expenses of \$17,920 for the work that was done grassing over the street and are seeking reimbursement and damages from the city.

Because of the similarities to the Scott's Wharf case, an amicus brief by the Attorney General's office would be very helpful to support the fine representation by City Solicitor Joe Nicholson.



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Photo by Jane Hence

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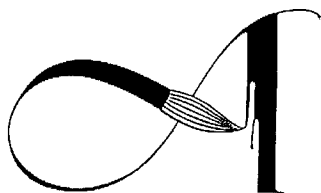
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