

**TOWN OF DARIEN
GREAT ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Jon Zagrodzky (BOS), Chair; Lori Bora (Park and Recreation Commission, Chair); Jim Palen (Board of Finance, Chair); Mark Adiletta (RTM); Mike Burke (BOS); Daniel Kolakowski (resident member); Jeffrey Taebel (resident member); Kipp Visi (resident member)

STAFF: Monica McNally, First Selectman; Edward Gentile, Director Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Zagrodzky opened the meeting at 6:30 p.n.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the two previous meetings (July 19, 2023 and August 23, 2023) were reviewed and the following corrections were made.

DEP should be DEEP and correct the spelling of Mr. Gentile's name and Ms. McNally's name.

**** MR. ADILETTA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
**** MR. BURKE SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REMARKS FROM FIRST SELECTMAN, MONICA MCNALLY

Ms. McNally reported that the Pastor from the Noroton First Presbyterian Church blessed the new fire boat, *Marine 34*. She expressed her thanks to the Steinkraus family for allowing the town to dock the boat there for over 35 years.

NPR reached out to Ms. McNally last week to interview her about the Island in connection with the book, *Baking Powder Wars* written by Linda Civitello.

Tours of the Island will take place this Saturday. Almost 700 residents will be able to see the Island. She expressed her thanks to the people who stepped forward to help with the tour.

4. REMARKS FROM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, ED GENTILE

Mr. Gentile reviewed a list of tasks associated with the Island.

Mr. Gentile reported that he met with the Director of Health today to give him an update of the environmental findings. The reports were commissioned by the Town prior to purchasing the Island. Environmental issues were identified in the report. Parts of the site had significant environmental hazards. All issues were remediated prior to the Town taking ownership of the property. Mr. Gentile described the process used for remediation.

There is an eagle's nest on the Island. The nest is regulated by the DEEP and Mr. Gentile said he reached out to them for guidance.

Mr. Gentile reviewed the infrastructure initiatives. They are beginning to look at winterizing the occupied buildings on the Island. They are reviewing the access plan to get onto the Island. He presented preliminary plans, that are subject to change. He also described the approval process.

Currently the access road is 18 feet wide, and the plan is to widen it to 22 feet wide. The plan is to start construction in March or April with a July 1st completion date.

Mr. Gentile discussed parking on the Island. He identified about 200 potential parking spaces laid out withing several pocket parking lots throughout the Island. He added that he needed guidance from the Committee regarding parking.

Mr. Gentile reviewed the maintenance plan. He said he put together a bid package for the transformer removal. The estimated cost is \$25,000 - \$35,000. He said he would like to put a bid together for the asbestos removal in two occupied locations.

Mr. Gentile said the oil tank removal project is on hold; however, he wants to get price to do a tightness test on the underground oil tanks.

The Stable dormer needs to be done. Mr. Gentile said he received a quote of \$3,750. The Squash building roof repairs will be done by DPW staff and the cost will be about \$100.00. The small garage roof repair is on hold.

Mr. Gentile said the have to winterize the water service at the boat dock. He is looking for an estimate to install a gate to stop intruders from coming on the Island.

The Beach Cottage will be winterized and DPW staff will repair the doors on the Dolphin House.

The boiler and sump pump at the Stable will be serviced. Mr. Gentile said they are seeking additional quotes to repair the pool fence at the White House. They need to snake out the drain under the Bilko door at the Pink House.

Mr. Gentile completed his report and fielded questions from the Committee members. When asked how much remediation needs to be done before they can allow the public to access the Island, Mr. Gentile explained there should not be public access if there are areas above direct contact criteria. They plan to keep the public away from those areas. Ms. McNally explained that eight acres out of 60 present problems. It was suggested they need to think about next steps if they have specific inquiries into those environmentally hazardous areas.

5. DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATED TO THIS COMMITTEE

Mr. Zagrodzky suggested creating the following four groups to liaison with the Town staff:

- Environmental I
- Access and Activities
- Infrastructure
- Coastal Advisory

The Committee members agreed that was an efficient way to accomplish their goals.

Mr. Zagrodzky said he will distribute assignments.

The next meeting will take place on October 18th at 6:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services