

ISLAND PATH COMMITTEE MEETING
April 10, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Selectman Bonnie Searle at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Ellen Goethel, Ms. Nancy Olney, Mr. Peter Tilton Jr., Mr. Mike McDermott, Mr. Jim Keefe and Mr. David Joaquin.

Mrs. Searle stated that she was pleased with the first meeting on March 27th. Phone lists with Email addresses were distributed to each Committee Member and corrections and additions were made.

Mrs. Searle visited Sandy Point Discovery Center in Greenland to just inspect the elevated walkway. It was very impressive. The walkway is approximately 48-50 inches wide and there was also a Discovery Center located next to the walkway. There were also beautiful homes being built abutting the Discovery Center property.

Mrs. Searle distributed copies of the tax map from the Town Assessor's Office. Mr. Keefe stated it still was not up-to-date as there were houses missing.

The Minutes of March 27, 2002 were distributed and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Traffic Issues (Police)

Ms. Searle wrote a letter to the Town Manager regarding the police call made by Mr. Keefe asking the Manager to discuss the call made on March 23, 2002 with Chief Wrenn.

The call to the Police Station on March 23, 2002 did not show up on the records until a complaint was made on March 28, 2002 regarding the car that was parked in the curved part of Island Path. It was suggested that the large boulders be placed in the curved area. A short discussion ensued.

B. Planning Board Tape – June 2000

Mrs. Searle reviewed the Planning Board tape and then gave the tape to Mrs. Goethel to review. A discussion ensued on the Foss Manufacturing donation. Mr. Keefe stated to research this issue and proceed on with the meeting.

C. Permitting Process

To answer Mr. McDermott's question on permitting, Mrs. Goethel gave an update on the permitting process. No permit has been filed at this point. Mrs. Goethel spoke to Dori Wiggin and the Engineers to see when the maps will be done to go to the State for permits. When the Engineering Plans are done and the permits are written up for the wetlands permit for the State, the law states that you need that permit and a special permit for the Town at the same time. At that time, the abutters are notified.

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D. Parking Issues

1. Handicapped Parking

Mrs. Goethel had contacted the Governor's Office and spoke to Maureen Stimpson for some information on handicapped parking. Mr. Tilton stated not to make it hard on people. A discussion ensued on whether to have a handicapped space at the entrance of the walkway as required because of the State and Federal funding. Mrs. Goethel stated to receive Federal Grant money any project must be handicapped accessible. (must be located at the site) The abutters do not want a sidewalk put in which would have to be done if parking was going to be at the Town Lot. Mr. McDermott stated that all parking and not just handicapped parking is the issue.

2. Mr. Tilton suggested making a turn around with signage. Ms. Olney also suggested the turn around with signage so that there would be no turning in private driveways. A discussion ensued on the appropriate place to have the turn around. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting along with the handicapped parking and signage.

Parking in the Town Lot was also discussed. Mrs. Goethel suggested if the visitors to the walkway stayed longer than one hour, perhaps a fee could be charged. She will address this to the Selectmen.

NEW BUSINESS

A work day for major clean up of the walkway is being planned. Mrs. Goethel will check with the Wetland Board and Phil Auger, wild life specialist, before proceeding with the cuttings and plantings. Mr. Auger will be available to join in the clean up. Mrs. Goethel suggested Sunday, April 28th, Saturday, May 4th, Sunday, May 5th or Saturday, May 11th. She will put the date in the newspaper. Mr. McDermott and Mr. Keefe will let the neighbors know.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Pat Fraser made the comment of having 3 or 4 cars towed from her property. Ms. Marilyn Chew asked about the lot being closed at the end of the day. Mrs. Goethel stated a gate would be installed and locked.

Mrs. Searle researched the original petition of the residents against the project.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2002 at 7:00 p.m meeting in the Town Office Meeting Room.

Mrs. Geothel motioned to adjourn at 8:35, seconded by Ms. Olney. All were in favor.

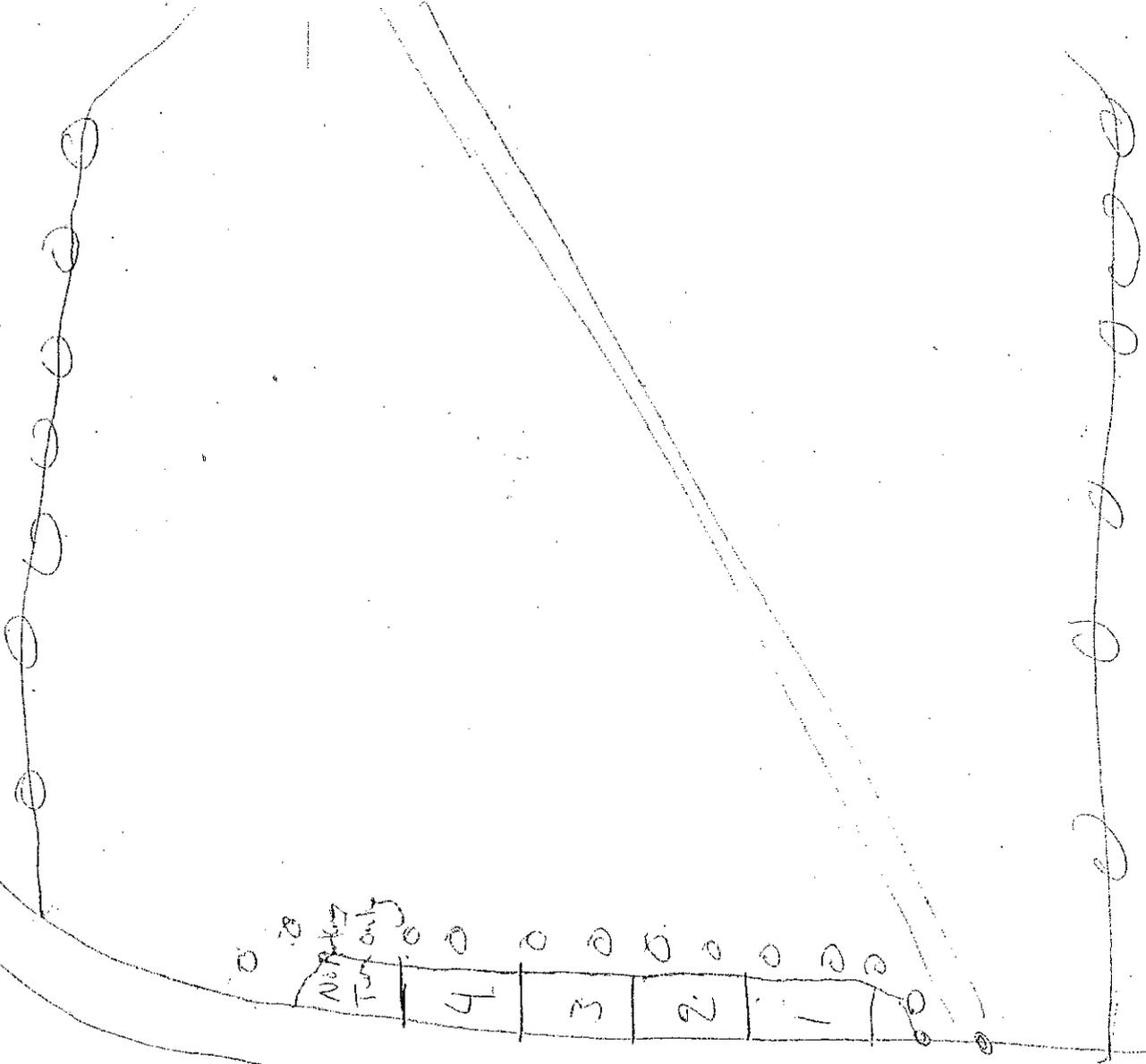
Respectfully submitted,



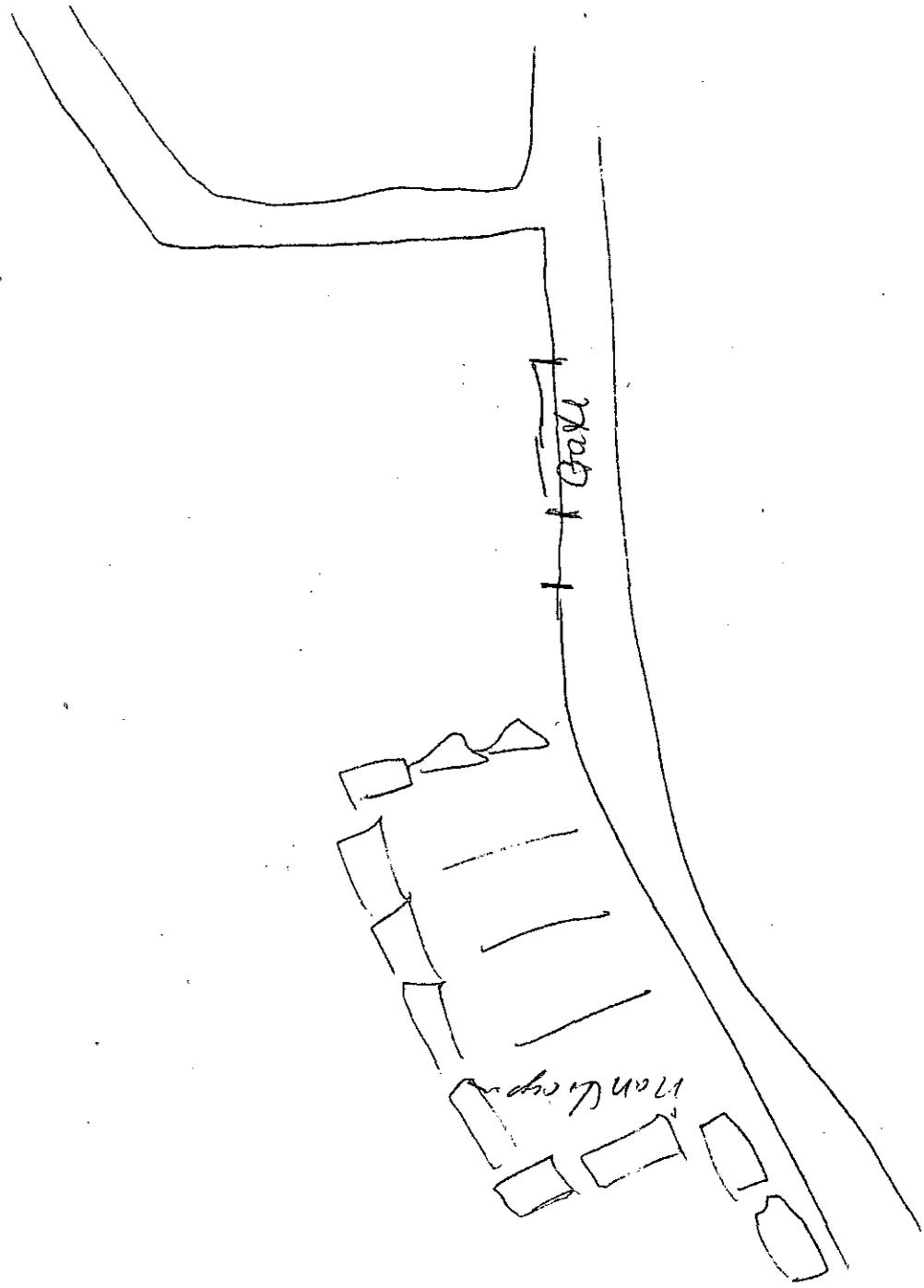
Sue Launi
Conservation Commission Secretary

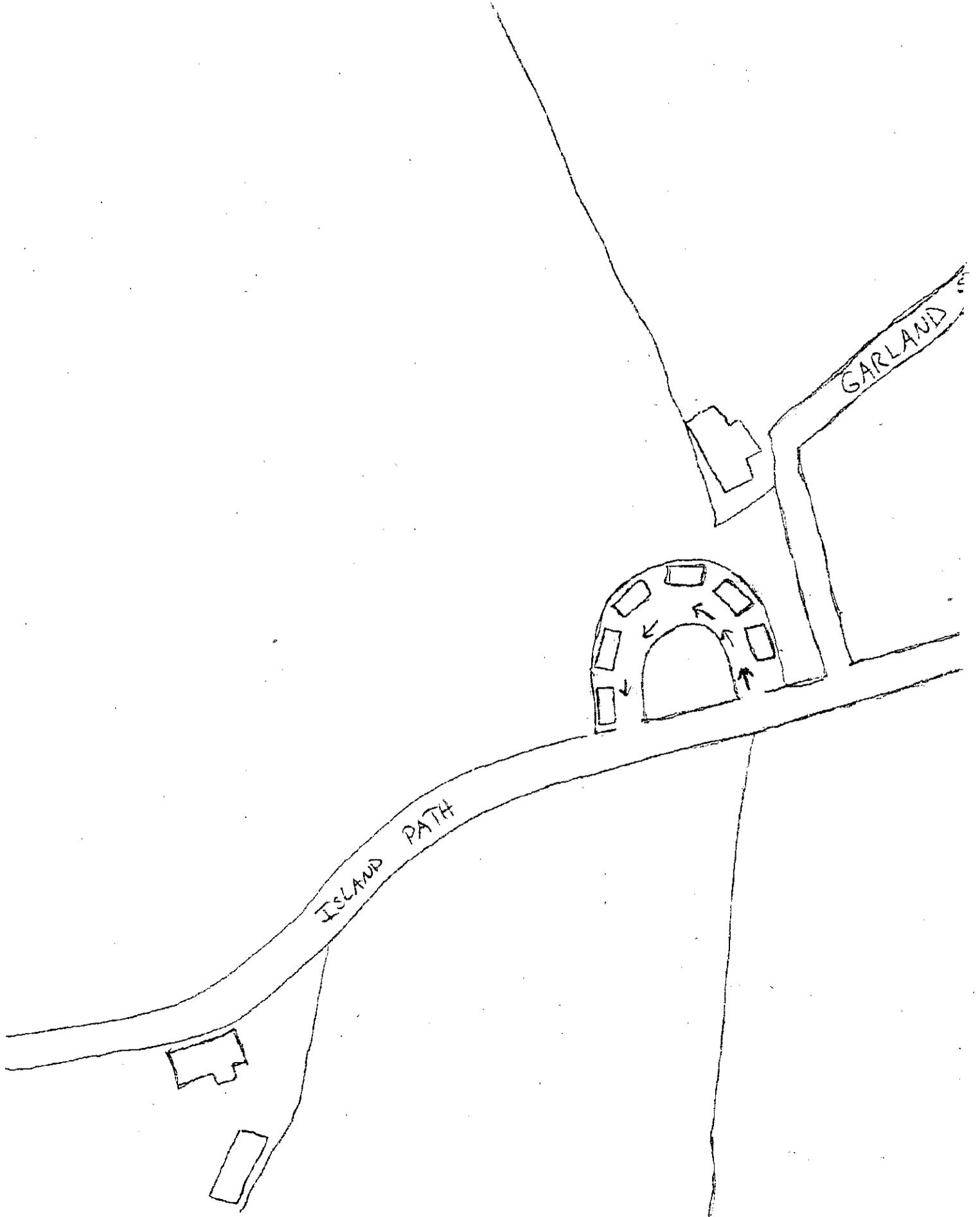
Gate

2 Hour Parking For Above Area Only
No Parking Dusk - Dawn



Eller





OPINION

The Hampton Union ♦ seacoastonline.com



LETTERS

Parking the main issue for Island Path resident

To the Editor:

I am a resident of Island Path and also a committee member. Let's get one thing clear that this/your newspaper fails to publish. We the committee are all for this path, we think it's a wonderful idea.

Our objective is simple, we do not want parking at the site. The place was the town dump, before you invite the public in, we want the town to clean it up. Dispose of all the metal, the 8 rusted barrels ... remove the broken glass from the south side which covers approximately 250 square feet.

The selectmen who volunteered to chair the meeting's has been quoted in your paper saying that "they've created a ruckus down there."

Well, the committee made simple phone calls to the DES and informed the town and Conservation that their are state laws in place that need to be followed before you turn this area into a site path.

I believe the town attorney is looking into this matter, which simply means applying for a special permit and a change in use permit for the property. Something that was totally overlooked by Conservation and the town, perhaps and obviously they weren't aware of this.

The residents strongly object to parking — why? Because Island Path is a dead-end road, if the proposed four-car lot ever gets full where will the people turnaround? Simple answer, in the abutters' driveways. Residents don't want people turning around in their driveways, would you? Is there anything wrong with that? I live on the north end of Island Path, so, in the height of the summer, numerous cars turn around in my driveway.

So yes, I have a huge problem with parking at the site, we just don't want or need anymore traffic.

David A. Joaquin.
ISLAND PATH,
HAMPTON

Gov. deserves thanks

Needs to monitor Seabrook

BRIGAN

are often just lines drawn on maps. Differences can exist on either side of the border.

In Massachusetts and New Hampshire at Salisbury into encounters entirely different attitudes monitoring nuclear power plant radio-

in Massachusetts, a comprehensive monitoring system is in place within the 10-mile radius of the nuclear power plant. Radiation detectors measure the ambient atmosphere and download the data instantly to a central computer.

In the event of an emergency, this monitoring system can detect emission spikes outside the Seabrook plant and provide good esti-

could be expanded to include New Hampshire very easily.

That is, if the money were available, which is the second point of frustration here. While the capital cost of expanding the C-10 system may seem large at first glance, perhaps somewhere in the \$100,000 to \$200,000 range, it is a very small amount of money relative to the current market value of the Seabrook plant, about \$940 million.

It would be a wonderful gesture if the plant's owners were to fund the capital cost of expanding the C-10 system. But, if corporate altruism be unlikely, the state government could obtain the necessary funds from its annual assessment upon the plant for emergency planning and equipment. An extension of the C-10 system would certainly fit into the rationale for that assessment.

In short, there is neither a significant technological nor financial problem preventing a solution to this problem: it is merely a question of the will to do it, political or otherwise. Two current developments raise some hopes in that

Island Path abutters voice concerns

Group tries to find compromise on proposed walk

By Steve Jusseume
sjusseume@seacoastonline.com

HAMPTON — Traffic, parking and rowdy kids doing illegal things emerged as the top problems concerning residents at the first meeting of a working group of Island Path people and Conservation Commissioners this past week.

The work group was established to find some common ground regarding the Conservation Commission's plan to build an educational marsh walk on a piece of land off Island Path; the first meeting was held last Wednesday at the town offices on Winnacunnet Road.

Some Island Path neighbors don't want any part of the project.

But project coordinator Ellen Goethel said that a \$14,980 grant has already been received and work has begun on the project, including site surveys and preliminary design. No walkway construction is planned, however, with the \$15,000 in hand, and a parking lot proposed for the site is one of the items on the table for discussion and resolution.

"So far we have a survey map and an initial plan for the walk-

way ... (but) this does not mean that a boardwalk will be built," Goethel said, noting that the purpose of the work group meetings is to find a compromise.

Selectman Bonnie Searle chaired the 90-minute-long committee meeting, setting ground rules and a meeting schedule. The group is scheduled to meet again April 10, April 17 and May 1.

At last week's conference, Goethel explained how the current grant was written, detailed the input Stephen Foss of Foss Manufacturing had in the decision to build the marsh walk, and tried to explain the process whereby the Conservation Commission came to propose the marsh walk in the first place.

Residents, however, complained they were never "notified" of the many meetings and public hearings held regarding the development of the current plan. Michael McDermott, an Island Path resident and member of the work group, said that at a June 2000 Planning Board meeting he was told the Island Path neighbors would be "kept-in touch" on further developments regarding the project, but they never were.

Goethel's explanation that the Conservation Commission did all that it was legally supposed to do regarding notification of abutters, and that at least a dozen press releases on the project have been published in lo-

cal newspapers, didn't impress the Island Path neighbors.

"I had no idea I had to follow what was occurring (in town government)," McDermott responded.

Goethel noted that project abutters will be officially notified when the permitting phase of the project begins.

"Who picked Island Path" as the site of an educational marsh walk, another resident asked.

Goethel then referred to Article 61 on the 2000 town warrant, which was approved on March 14 of that year. That article, which no Island Path resident in the room seemed to remember, read, in part:

"To see if the voters will place a town-owned 5.75-acre parcel of land located on Island Path ... under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission (to) make use of the parcel as an educational area for the study of the marsh and it's wildlife."

The article was approved on March 14, with 2,781 registered voters in favor and 751 opposed.

Richard Proudly and his wife (218 Island Path) mentioned kids drinking at night at the site, and asked if the neighbors

have any recourse to stop the project.

To which Goethel responded that since the project was approved by a vote at Town Meeting, it would take a second Town Meeting vote to absolutely stop the plan from being implemented.

"The grant has been approved. The town voted to use the land for an educational site ... (that) can only be changed by a (second) Town Meeting vote," Goethel said.

Among the dozen or so spectators in the room were at least two who supported the project, Charlie Preston, who lives on Glade Path, and Dr. Ralph Falk, the newest full-time member of the Conservation Commission,

both spoke in support of the plan.

"My neighborhood has changed over the years. You can't stop change ... I think you'll see this (project) improve the site," Preston said, arguing that everything the Conservation Commission has done in pursuing the plan has been forthright and above-board.

Falk added that a similar nature walkway at Sandy Point off Route 33 in Greenland is "a gorgeous walkway" and a similar project here will change the character of the Island Path area in a positive way.

"Go to Sandy Point, take a look at that site, then let's find a way to make this fit in here," Falk urged.

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