



Shelter Island Reporter

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TOWN OF SHELTER ISLAND • VILLAGE OF DERING HARBOR

Fireworks fizzling?

Red ink, waning support threaten 30 year tradition

BY CARA LORIZ | EDITOR

The Shelter Island Chamber of Commerce fireworks show may fall victim to the recession.

“There’s a very good chance we’re not having the fireworks this year,” Chamber President Sean McLean said last Friday. The Chamber board asked its 100 or so members if the show should go on in light of a \$6,000 deficit from the 2009 show. According to Mr. McLean, about 30 percent of the Island businesspeople have replied and so far the response is split 50/50 for and against a Chamber-sponsored show, with many undecided.

“We’re trying to figure out what to do,” he said.

The 2010 pyrotechnic show is planned for the weekend of July 10, the Saturday after the Fourth of July weekend. The holiday weekend is no longer an option for several reasons, Mr. McLean explained. Safety concerns forced the Chamber to move the launch site from the end of Crescent Beach — adjacent to the spectator area — to a barge anchored offshore. But a marine launch requires a Coast Guard permit and U.S. Fish and Wildlife confirmation that plover

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REPORTER FILE PHOTO

Barge launches began with the 2008 fireworks show (above) but donations didn’t cover the cost in 2009.



TED HILLS PHOTO

Matt Sherman (right) explains the dimensions of the proposed Zagoreos house to the ZBA. To rebuild the house, the only one on the causeway (left), an unprecedented permit is needed.

New house no bigger than old

Zoning Board | Zagoreos rebuild tests special permits in coastal barrier district

BY TED HILLS | STAFF REPORTER

Island residents concerned about Alexander Zagoreos’s plan to rebuild his fire-damaged house, the only one on the First Causeway, packed the board room at Town Hall on February 24 as the Zoning Board heard its first application for a special permit to build in the Undeveloped Coastal Barrier Zone.

Another project returned to the ZBA last week for a second go-around: Antoinette and Lawrence Landry’s newest plan to build a three-car garage with living space at their house in the Heights.

Just how new structures would impact Island vistas was an issue at both hearings.

ZAGOREOS SPECIAL PERMIT

Mr. Zagoreos has requested a special permit under Section 133-11 of the zoning code to construct a replacement house in the Undeveloped Coastal Barrier Zone at 28 Ram Island Drive, which is also zoned AA/Near Shore Overlay.

“The most stark difference between the proposed house and the existing house,” said Matt Sherman, representing the Zagoreoses, “is the bird’s-eye-view footprint.” The existing home has a building footprint of about 1,860 square feet, compared to the proposed 3,362 square feet

(both figures include deck).

While the current split-level dwelling was subject to fewer restrictions when it was constructed, new FEMA flood plain regulations mandate that the proposed house be built on stilts to raise it off the ground, an average of four and a half feet.

In order to keep the square footage close to that of the original house, while not building any higher, “We squashed it and spread it out,” explained Mr. Sherman. He told the board that the highest point of the proposed structure would be 26 feet above sea level, the same height as the existing house. Including deck, it would be 120 feet at its longest and 26 feet at its widest — the existing house is 44 feet at its longest and 39 feet at its widest.

The proposed house has an interior square footage of 2,230 square feet, less than the current 2,560 square feet, though the new structure would have slightly more decking.

“It’s not an extravagant house,” said board member Patricia Shillingburg.

Wetlands restrictions require the new structure to be located further from wetlands and closer to Ram Island Drive — 53 feet away, compared with the existing house, which is about 100 feet off the road. In order to accommodate a septic system, a small section of earth close to the road will be raised about 3 1/2 feet high. Mr. Sherman said this area could be well hidden by plantings.

A major concern for both the board and many audience members was the impact that the house would have on the surrounding environment.

Water was one such concern. Because of a lack of potable water on the site, Ms. Shillingburg noted, the previous

owners brought water to the house in jugs. Mr. Sherman explained that a reverse-osmosis filtration system is proposed to treat salty groundwater on-site. The waste-water could be pumped into a recharge well or septic system, he said.

“Since we don’t have a freshwater aquifer to contaminate, it doesn’t really matter where we put it back in,” said Mr. Sherman. “It’s just going

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ENGINEER MATT SHERMAN

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