By unanimously adopting Resolution 2018-1078, Louisa Evans said, "the Southold Town Board has begun the process to determine whether or not to grant a change of zone designation", in the property commonly known on Island as the Briar Patch.

The Southold Town Board "is considering the change of zone application from Fishers Island Utility Company regarding a portion of the property identified as SCTM #1000-6-6-20.8 from R-80 (Residential) to HD (Hamlet Density)".

**R-80 (Residential):** (Source: [https://ecode360.com/5162057](https://ecode360.com/5162057))
Permitted uses:
A. One-family detached dwellings, not to exceed one dwelling on each lot.
B. Two-family dwellings not to exceed one such dwelling on each lot.

**HD (Hamlet Density):** (Source: [https://ecode360.com/5162189](https://ecode360.com/5162189))
Permitted uses:
A. One-family detached dwellings, subject to residential site plan approval for more than one such structure per lot.
B. Two-family dwellings, subject to residential site plan approval for more than one such structure per lot.
C. Multiple dwellings, townhouses, row or attached dwellings, subject to residential site plan approval

The Town Board also "requests that the Planning Board prepare a report and recommendations on the proposed rezoning...", and requests that the Suffolk County Planning Commission prepare a report and recommendations on the proposed rezoning...

The Town Board of the Town of Southold will hold a **public hearing on February 26, 2019** at 4:31 pm at the Southold Town Hall on "a proposed Local Law entitled "A Local Law to Amend the Zoning Map of the Town of Southold by Changing the Zoning Designation of a portion of property identified on the Suffolk County Tax Map as Lot #1000-6-6-20.8 R-80 (Residential) to HD (Hamlet Density)".


People may write comments to be included in the public hearing. Comments should be mailed or emailed to Elizabeth Neville, Town Clerk for inclusion in the public record. Her address is Southold Town Hall, 53095 Main Road, PO Box 1179, Southold, New York 11971. Her email is e.neville@town.southold.ny.us.
It’s a typical winter day here on Fishers Island. The Long Island Sound is boiling with whitecaps—the frigid wind blowing, a few brave waterfowl bobbing in the calmer inlets, and the ferry rocking and rolling on its journey to the haven that is the port of New London. But below the angry waves, there is an oasis waiting for spring to come. There isn’t much happening there now—the blades have died back, the rhizomes anchoring the stubby remains, keeping sediments in place while the tides ebb and flow. This is an eelgrass meadow, one of several surrounding the island, a precious habitat that has battened down the hatches in preparation for winter.

If you were to don a dry suit and brave the bone-chilling waters of the Atlantic to snorkel through an eelgrass bed in winter, you may not recognize it from its lush summertime appearance. In the fall, after the growing season, eelgrass sloughs its leaves, shedding the blades in preparation for winter. With shorter days and murkier waters, eelgrass cannot photosynthesize as efficiently, so it stores food and nutrients in its rhizome to hold it over through the dark winter. The increased wave action washes the blades to shore in dense mats, where they blacken and crisp up in the sun. These berms of vegetation can trap sand and dissipate wave energy, reducing the erosive effects of strong winter storms.

Despite the stubby blades and brownish coloring, eelgrass meadows are still providing critical ecosystem services below the surface. Ecosystem services are essentially services that a habitat provides which benefits humans—eelgrass meadows provide many of these services depending on the season. As winter storms blow through, or rough seas produce stronger currents, the thick webbing of rhizomes can still hold onto sediments, dampening some wave action and preventing erosion on shore. Not to mention one of eelgrass’ most valuable jobs, storing carbon from the atmosphere. During the growing season, eelgrass absorbs carbon dioxide to use for photosynthesis, which uses carbon to form sugars for the plant and emits oxygen as a byproduct. Though photosynthesis is not happening nearly as much, if at all, over the winter, the rhizomes are stills storing this excess carbon, taking it out of the atmosphere where it can contribute to climate change.

It may not look like much in the dead of winter, but the eelgrass meadows here in the waters surrounding Fishers are still playing an incredibly important role in keeping the island community, and the world, healthier. In the spring, they will come back to life, or at least appear to, with green blades beginning to sprout from the brown sheathes, invertebrates crawling over the sand and up the leaves, and juvenile fish hiding from predators among the strands. Though it was never really gone, the oasis will be restored to its three-season beauty, when we can truly appreciate this incredible ecosystem.

The Fishers Island Seagrass Management Coalition will be holding its next meeting on Wednesday, January 30th, from 1-4 pm at the HL Ferguson Museum. All are welcome to attend the first half of the meeting (1-2:30 pm), during which we will have a guest speaker giving a presentation about seagrass management. A full agenda is to follow.

To RSVP to the Coalition meeting, or to learn more about seagrass in general, please contact Emily Bodell at fishersislandseagrass@gmail.com or call 631-788-7239.
FISHERS ISLAND FERRY SHIPYARD UPDATE

By Jane T. Ahrens, Editor

The ferry Race Point went into the shipyard this fall for some routine maintenance and will be back in service shortly. The Fishers Island Ferry District’s commissioners and management take care to consider the seasonal needs of their customers and the island residents when scheduling this work. In this case, getting fuel to the island is a priority in the off-season for obvious reasons. With this in mind, Race Point went in first so it will be available to transport the larger trucks in the winter months.

The shipyard work and return to service tasks done by the crew at the New London terminal are in addition to the normal day to day operations of the ferry service. Marine Operations Manager RJ Burns shared this work order information:

Race Point:
Some are completed with a combination of shipyard staff and ferry crew members.

1) All exterior sanded, primed, gloss white paint w/new letters and draft marks
2) Bottom sanded, primed and painted
3) Rub-rails pressure tested, leaks repaired, and painted
4) Port aft quarter side shell, bottom plate, & framing renewed
5) Ballast tank sandblasted, primed and epoxy painted
6) Propellers swapped with spares
7) Wasted metal in car deck pipe sockets renewed
8) One vent pipe on car deck wasted and renewed
9) Lube oil tank fill pipe wasted and renewed
10) 3 car deck hatches replaced
11) Existing sewage tank removed. New sewage tank constructed and pressure tested. Very extensive project.
12) Fuel tank remote access, emergency shut off renewed
13) New keel cooler zins
14) Car deck sprinkler valves serviced
15) All sea valves inspected and serviced. Replaced one
16) Renewed approx. 130’ of ballast system piping
17) Renewed approx. 130’ of bilge system piping
18) Both life rafts removed, inspected and serviced
Ferry crew accomplishments at the shipyard & in New London:
1) Chipped, scrapped and chiseled rust from six voids (internal tanks) and various areas in the engine room
2) Coated areas that had been chipped
3) Recoated 5 life floats, including splicing all new lines & nets
4) Re-stencil safety warnings, etc.
5) Re-installed all exterior safety equipment
6) Oil changes both main engines and reduction gears
7) Replaced injectors both generators
8) Up-graded bilge system manifold
9) Tested all fire hoses
10) Thoroughly cleaned engine room, vestibule deck plates, bilges and bulkheads
11) Painted all handrails

Munnatawket
Departs the first week of January. Tentatively scheduled for January 7 or 8, weather dependent.

This is a major and complex project and an upgrade to Munnatawket. Preparations, certifications, plans, and plan review have all been completed.

Re-power project scheduled to last two months but may take longer due to winter weather delays and Coast Guard oversite.

1) The existing power plant, reduction gears, and associated control systems to be replaced with TIER 3, environmentally compliant, more fuel-efficient engines and control systems.
2) This will include removal of all the above, fire pumps and piping, engine bed rails, control systems.
3) Next – Fabricating new bed rails (engine support frames) to fit new propulsion system.
3) The existing system is “chain and cable” (read manual) controls. This will be replaced with “drive by wire” control systems.

Mere Doyen (Fishers Island resident and the Island’s liaison to Southold), and I were invited to travel with the Fishers Island Ferry District’s captains and crew as they brought Race Point back home. We arrived at Goodison Shipyard with FI Ferry Manager Geb Cook about 8:30 am. A tour of the ferry was followed by a shipyard walk-about before we “set sail” on our 5-hour ride southwest to Fishers Island Sound. The sights we saw December 7, 2018 are found at http://fishersisland.net/fishers-island-ferry-shipyard-update-race-point-munnatawket/

Thank you to the Fishers Island Ferry District for the invitation to travel back on Race Point. In particular, General Manager Geb Cook, Marine Operations Manager RJ Burns, Marine Operations Supervisor and Captain Jon Haney, Engineer Mike Franco, and Captains Jon Hiller and Tony Mirabelli, along with my travel companion Mere Doyen. One of us saw a whale spout twice, the captains have good taste in music, oh yes, we had homemade chili with all the fixings for lunch, and we learned a lot!
SOUTHOLD, NY — After years of discussion and recent public hearings, the Southold Town board voted unanimously Tuesday [December 18, 2018] to adopt a new rental code.

The aim of the legislation is to ensure public health and safety, officials said. According to the code, there are “serious conditions arising from non-owner occupied rental of dwelling units in one, two and three family and multiple dwellings that are in violation” of state fire, building and electrical codes. “Many of these dwellings are inadequate in size, overcrowded and dangerous, and such dwelling units pose hazards to life, limb and property of residents of the town and others, tend to promote and encourage deterioration of the housing stock,” and create blight and excessive traffic and parking concerns.

The new legislation will require that homeowners renting their properties obtain a rental permit; rental fees will be set by the town board by resolution. In addition, the new law says that each rental dwelling shall be equipped with functioning smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors. No permit will be issued unless the rental unit has a valid certificate of occupancy or pre-certificate of occupancy...

... The legislation also states that no real estate broker or agent shall list or advertise a unit for which a current rental permit has not been issued by code enforcement.

Penalties for violations are listed as not less than $500 and not exceeding $5,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 15 days, or both, for conviction of a first offense. The fine increases to $1,000 or not more than $10,000 for imprisonment for a period not to exceed 15 days for conviction of the second of the two offenses, both of which were committed within five years.

Although the law went into effect immediately upon adoption, in order to give property owners enough time to get up to speed, no violations will be charged before Aug. 1, 2019, and no violations will be issued to those who have filed the necessary application by Aug. 1, 2019, and who has not received final determination on the application for reasons over which the application has no control...

“I had wrestled with this,” Southold Town Supervisor Scott Russell said. “I actually had some reservations. The original legislation was admittedly perhaps over-prescribed, but it’s been stripped down to the most basic, very straightforward provisions and addresses health and safety. I hate passing new restrictions if we don’t have to, but people should keep in mind that we’ve loosened the code in the past few years and made accessory apartments much easier to get. When you loosen the rules in one respect,” he said, “there is a need, by the same token to ensure public safety for renters.”

To read the whole article and A local Law in relation to Rental Permits in its entirety visit this link: http://fishersisland.net/new-rental-code-adopted-unanimously-in-southold/
IN MEMORIAM: KATHERINE “CASSIE” SHEFFIELD KERNAN

Katherine “Cassie” Sheffield Kernan, 74, Mother, Dancer, Socialite.

Cassie Sheffield Kernan died in a car accident in Boca Grande, FL on December 18th, 2018. Mrs. Kernan was a camp consultant, world traveler, tennis player, movement therapist, competitive golfer, fitness advocate and bridge player.

She was a super connector who forged lifelong friendships with people in multiple locations and from all walks of life. Mrs. Kernan was a lifelong student of dance. She immersed herself in learning and then shared through her teaching a wide array of styles ranging from middle eastern belly dancing to tap. Known for joyfully bursting into dance at gatherings of friends and family, in 1973 Mrs. Kernan was featured in Life Magazine when she performed a belly dance demonstration at the United Nations.

With her signature infectious smile and boundless energy, Mrs. Kernan served her communities in many ways. She volunteered as a movement therapist at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women, where she helped women who were recovering from abuse, and she was a long-serving board member of the Boca Grande Community Center. Hundreds of families benefited from her expertise as a professional consultant to kids who were looking for camps, community service and summer adventures. As a lifetime fitness advocate, Mrs. Kernan taught Jazzercise classes for over a decade and continued to attend classes locally and wherever she traveled, making friends everywhere she went.

Born in Locust Valley, NY in 1944 to Polly Potter Sheffield and Joseph Earl Sheffield, she spent most of her early life in Camden, South Carolina, where she attended Calvert School and later Miss Hall’s School in Pittsfield, MA. She attended Finch College and Columbia University.

In 1968 she was married to Frank Kernan until his death in 2015. During their marriage they raised three children, Josh of Mill Valley, California, Michael of Weare, New Hampshire and Kate of Glen Cove, New York. She was a beloved and devoted grandmother to eight grandchildren and a sister to the late state senator Penny Baldwin Williams of Tulsa, OK and to Helen Baldwin Bonsal of Glyndon, M.D.

Memorial services will be held in Boca Grande, FL on January 5th, 2019. Additional services will be scheduled for Bedford, NY in the spring and Fishers Island, NY in August. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Boca Grande Health Clinic in Boca Grande, FL, Island Health Project on Fishers Island, NY or My Second Home in Mount Kisco, NY.

Published in The New York Times on December 25, 2018

IN MEMORIAM: ELIZABETH WILLIAMS HARVEY

Elizabeth Williams Harvey passed away peacefully on December 17th at the age of 96. She was surrounded by all her children. She will be remembered for her sense of humor and wit. A voracious reader, she always had her nose in a book.

Her roots in Baltimore are profound, dating back to 1831, when her great-grandfather, G. Harlan Williams, was born and was later buried there. She is also related to the Ingrams, Purnells, Swindels, and Mallorys. Married to Alexander Harvey II for 65 years, they lived in the family home in Baltimore and Fishers. She was involved for years with the Union Memorial Hospital and the Baltimore Museum of Art. A graduate of Calvert School, she attended Bryn Mawr School and graduated from Miss Porter’s School in Farmington, CT, she drove an ambulance during WWII. She and Zandy were members of both clubs at Fishers since their marriage in 1951.

Her brother, J. Harlan Williams Jr., and her husband predeceased her. She is survived by her children: Claude Kress (Rip) Williams Jr., Cynthia Williams Collins, Elizabeth (Lisa) Harvey Shapiro, and Alexander (Exie) Harvey IV. Exie generously tended to her welfare during her final years. Her nieces, Peggy Williams and Lela Williams, also survive her. Her grandchildren are Porter Collins, Dwight Collins, Katharine Shapiro and Nicholas Shapiro. She has six great-grandchildren: Porter Collins, Caroline Collins, James Collins, Greta Collins, Brynn Collins, Timmy Collins, all of who enjoy Fishers Island.

A private family burial [took] place in Baltimore. A service will be held at Fishers during the summer of 2019. Donations in her name to Gilchrist Hospice in Baltimore would honor their expert guidance and professionalism.
Bertram (Bert) Borden Fisher, 87, a resident of Greenwich, CT and a lifelong fixture on Fishers Island passed away peacefully on December 1, 2018 surrounded by his loving family.

Born October 7th 1931 in New York City; Bert was the son of the late Harris B. Fisher, Jr. and Gwendolyn Talbot Fisher and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Talbot. The Talbot families and subsequent Fisher families have been coming regularly to Fishers Island since 1917.

Bert attended Manlius Military Academy of NY and Hebron Academy of Maine. When asked about college he took great pride in saying his advanced degrees came from Uncle Sam. He proudly served our nation in the U.S. Army and did so with great pride and dedication as an Army Ranger and Paratrooper serving with the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Korea (2 deployments) during the height of the Korean conflict. At the time of his Honorable discharge from eight years of service he was 2nd Lieutenant.

After leaving the military Bert worked briefly selling textile machinery for the Leesona Company of Rhode Island. He found his passion though in the insurance world where he worked for sixty years, the past 25 years with the DeWitt Stern/Risk Strategies Group of New York as a Senior Vice President. He was a trusted insurance advisor to many of New York and Connecticut’s most prominent families and businesses.

An avid sportsman throughout his life, he was an accomplished racquets player, ice hockey player and a member of the US Olympic Men’s Field Hockey Team. He loved the NY Yankees, NY Rangers, Brunswick Football, being on the water, golf and most of all his fall surf fishing sojourns to Fishers Island NY.

He was his happiest patrolling the beaches on Fishers Island especially Race Point with fishing rod in hand. In his younger years, he spent his summers on Fishers Island up until the time he went into military service. A few of his jobs on island included working for Ed Hedge, Captain Pete Sinclair and at the Big Club. He had the distinction of being on Fishers during the 1938 hurricane while staying with his grandmother Ma Talbot at the Edmonds house. When questioned why he wasn’t in school in New York City – he explained that the NY city schools were delayed from opening due to a polio outbreak. Some may question this explanation as anyone who knew Bert knew he had some good stories.

Bert had a larger than life personality, a big and powerful physical presence, a boyish “up to no good” grin and a wonderfully engaging sense of humor. He took great pleasure in giving those he loved the most a hard time – all in the name of fun. Very few escaped his company without a broad smile and a fond memory.

He is survived by his wife of 13 years Carolyn Lincoln Fisher, sons John C. Fisher (Bebe) of Darien, CT, Bertram B. Fisher Jr (Katie) of Shelton, WA, Richmond T. Fisher (Kim) of Riverside, CT, and Alexander M Fisher (Andrea Moeller) of Maui, HI, eight grandchildren; Kristie, Alita, Blake, Alex, Annie, Ashley, Carolyn, and Jack and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his half-sister, Peg Oakes of Madison, N.J., his half-brothers John Gaston of Charlottesville, VA, and Alexander Gaston of Oahu, Hawaii (both formerly of Fishers Island). Bert was predeceased by his first wife of fifty years Jane Laidlaw Fisher and his brother Peter B. Fisher.

The family plans to have a gathering on Fishers Island in the fall of 2019 to celebrate the place he loved so much.

In lieu of flowers please consider a contribution in Bert’s honor to either Fishers Island Fire Department’s Sea Stretcher Fund, P.O. Box 123, Fishers Island, NY 06390 or Island Health Project Inc., P.O. Box 344, Fishers Island, NY 06390
The Ferry District’s free passage offer to transport any unwanted, unregistered or junk vehicles off the island was a successful test in 2018 and they are offering it again this winter. The value of the free passage was just over $5000 last year and was a good start to rid the Island of unsightly junker vehicles.

JANUARY 15 to MARCH 15, 2019

Fishers Island Ferry District is offering free travel for any junk vehicles off the Island.

NO CHARGE for travel to or from the island when an abandoned vehicle is carried. Includes driver and vehicle doing the towing.

This is a community service effort provided by the Ferry to assist those who may have vehicles that are unregistered and/or are no longer in working condition and are just stuck on the island.

Here are some ground rules:

• Eligible vehicles: Any abandoned, unregistered, ‘dead’, cars, trucks, vans, etc. stuck on the Island.
• Free passage includes the tow truck and driver coming from the mainland to pick up your unwanted vehicle. Reservations required.
• Free passage includes an island vehicle with driver towing or carrying an unwanted vehicle off the island and needing to return. Reservations required.
• Travel must be coordinated with the Ferry District’s Commercial Reservation Desk by calling 860-442-0165. (Ferry Reservation, vehicle, and driver will be free of charge!)
• Reservations for paying commercial customers will take priority over unwanted/ junk car reservations.
• All vehicles will be inspected prior to getting on the ferry for leaking fluids. Leakers will be rejected.
• Manually pushing a vehicle onto the ferry, or manually pushing a vehicle off, is not allowed.
• Unwanted vehicles may not be left at either Ferry Terminal unattended.

Please take advantage of this opportunity and let’s get rid of our Island’s junk vehicles. Below are contact suggestions for removal information:

David Banks, Vintage Iron, (860) 857-6076, tintossers@yahoo.com
Joe Perry, Z&S Contracting, (401) 741-5252, perryjoe73@gmail.com
Denis Grebe, Goose Island, (631) 788-7311, dsgrebe@sbcglobal.net
Shultz Roofing, Cshultzroofing@gmail.com
Library Book Group
February 14: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Community Dinner
FI Community Center
6:00 pm Wednesday, January 23
Macaroni & Cheese, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Homemade baked goods. Donations welcome!

Save the date and get ready to SHARE YOUR TALENT ~
FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN’S EVENT SCHEDULE
For the most complete and up to date Island schedule including Dinners, Museum Talks and Children’s Programs, FICC Classes and Workshops, Legion Events and more.

Please visit the website & see the calendar
www.fishersisland.net/events