



9. SERVICES & FACILITIES

New Shoreham 2016 Draft Comprehensive Plan

VISION

Block Island will continue to provide high quality community services and facilities that meet the needs of both residents and visitors. Community services and facilities will be provided in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable manner and will strive to preserve the unique qualities and character of Block Island.

SERVICES & FACILITIES

Supporting Documents

A companion document to this chapter, included in the Appendix is the Island Energy Plan which was adopted by the Town Council on June 4, 2012 and approved by the RI Department of Administration, Division of Planning on September 10, 2012. The energy plan addresses all sources of energy production, both conventional and renewable, waste reduction and conservation, and regulation and building design. It includes a set of goals and specific implementing actions for each subject.

Overview

The following section includes a description and assessment of the public services and facilities provided on the island, some of which are privately owned and/or managed, but most of which are a function of town government. *Map SFI Public Facilities* displays the locations of the public facilities on Block Island.

The provision of community services on an island is done under unique circumstances, is sometimes challenging, and is often costlier than it is for communities with similar characteristics on the mainland. In so many areas, the island must be self-sufficient. This is often due to the nature of the service being provided, but also because the opportunities for sharing services with other communities or any kind of regional approach are limited. All infrastructure systems, including public water and sewer, are localized. The school system educates all students, grades K through 12, and graduates on average fewer than ten pupils a year. Housing costs and the infeasibility of year-round commuting present a challenge to teachers and other professionals from the mainland who desire to work on the island, reducing the pool of applicants available for many community service jobs.

In other areas, services are provided but the mainland link is critical. Solid waste is collected and sorted on island, but is ultimately disposed of off-island. Medical services provided on Block Island are of a high caliber and available 24 hours; however, persons requiring emergency care and specialized services depend on access to the mainland. Similar to the recreation department programs, many social and recreational programs for seniors rely on mainland activities, especially during the winter.

The need for reliable high speed internet connection is discussed in the Economic Development chapter. In addition to its importance for businesses and the tourism industry, improved internet is critical to the school, as well as to the medical center, public safety departments, the library, and residents.

Block Island School

The Block Island School, centrally located in the southeast area of the island, instructs children in grades kindergarten through twelve in a single building. It is staffed with a superintendent, two co-principals and twenty-five teachers, as well as administrative and teaching assistants, a guidance counselor, social worker, school psychologist and an athletic director.

Enrollment

Over the decade from school year 2003-2004 to school year 2013-2014, enrollment at the Block Island School dropped by 25 students, from 140 to 115, an 18% reduction. There are three identified causes for this change:

1. A DROP IN THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE REGION AS A PART OF A LARGER DEMOGRAPHIC TREND;
2. A LONG STANDING TREND THAT OCCURS IN THE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL AS SOME FAMILIES OPT FOR MAINLAND SCHOOLS; AND
3. A SMALL BUT EMERGING DROP IN THE KINDERGARTEN RATIO THAT HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE DIFFICULTY OF YOUNG FAMILIES IN LOCATING ATTAINABLE YEAR-ROUND HOUSING.

As *Table SF-1 Block Island School Current Enrollment and Enrollment Projections* demonstrates, enrollment is anticipated to continue to decline over the next 10-year period.

The current school structure is separate grades (K-7) and a five-year (8-12) high school. This generates an expected and understood level of inefficiency with staffing and the facility. The facility has a capacity of 300 students with 15 students per classroom (highest single grade enrollment is currently 14 students). The 2013-2014 teacher to student ratio was 1:4, more than double the state average at 1:9.

In response to the challenges of operating a small and physically isolated school system with declining enrollment, the superintendent and staff, under the direction of the School Committee, researched potential changes to the school organization and structure in 2014. The concepts, which were field evaluated at other schools, include blended learning which is a combination of computer based and direct instruction; multi-grade classrooms; and of interest to the wider community, attracting students from off-island for specialized instruction, including for higher education.

Education Costs

Per pupil expenditures continue to far exceed state averages, a trend that the recent enrollment drop has amplified. Total per pupil expenditures in the school year 2014-2015 were \$39,672 for the Block Island School versus \$16,075 statewide. In the FY 2014 town budget, the school represented 37% of spending, a figure which is fairly consistent year to year.

Table SF-1: Block Island School Current Enrollment and Enrollment Projections												
Grade	Capacity	2015-2016 Enrollment	Enrollment Projections									
		Students	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
K	15	9	8	5	13	7	8	8	8	9	8	8
1	15	8	8	7	4	11	6	7	7	7	8	7
2	15	6	7	9	7	4	11	6	7	7	7	8
3	15	5	6	6	7	6	4	10	6	6	6	6
4	15	6	5	6	6	7	6	4	10	6	6	6
5	15	10	6	5	6	6	7	6	4	10	6	6
6	15	9	10	6	5	6	6	7	6	4	10	6
7	15	12	9	10	6	5	6	6	7	6	4	10
8	15	12	14	10	12	7	6	7	7	8	7	5
9	15	14	12	14	10	12	7	6	7	7	8	7
10	15	6	14	12	14	10	12	7	6	7	7	8
11	15	7	6	14	12	14	10	12	7	6	7	7
12	15	9	7	6	15	13	15	10	13	7	6	7
Total	15	113	113	110	118	109	105	97	96	91	91	92

Source: RIDE for Current Enrollment; Town of New Shoreham / New England School Development Council, 10/2015 for projections

Program

Block Island School students receive a very personalized education and a lot of individual attention from teachers. Students develop life-long relationships with their peers and the school faculty. The small classroom size also results in interaction between the different grade levels, both socially and more formally; in-school internships are offered to juniors and seniors to assist teachers of the lower grades.

Integrating computer based and teacher led instruction will be a major focus of public education on Block Island in the coming years. This will require that the technology infrastructure be upgraded, as instructionally, the school's greatest challenge is internet bandwidth. Overall, the internet is of growing importance for expanding secondary offerings through online courses; interactive online state assessments and the necessary preparatory instruction; and data management and integration which is increasingly cloud-based (data retrieved by the state, stored, and accessed through the internet).

Classroom reorganization to allow multi-grade instruction requires further program changes as well as physical space adaption. It is a longer term effort. Developing additional educational opportunities on Block Island will require the involvement of the island community – businesses, the environmental organizations, the arts community and other island groups. The school department undertook a survey to gauge community response to the idea in 2014, and initiated discussion with organizations that could offer educational programs in areas particularly suited to Block Island – the marine and ecological environment, arts, culture and history, and tourism. An initial step will be to develop short-term programs that are of interest to off-island students.

The possibility of establishing a pre-school has been discussed in the past, although no formal planning process has begun. The school department currently works with and supports the private preschool (the Block Island Early Learning Center). The Block Island School funds tuition cost of the private preschool for children (ages 3-5) with special needs.

A strong public school system educating grades K through 12 is critical to maintaining Block Island as a healthy and viable year-round community. Just as the community must make efforts in housing and economic development to provide opportunities for families to live and thrive year-round on the island, the school department must ensure the functioning and efficiency of the school through ongoing review of its enrollment and organizational structure.

Facility

Renovations to the Block Island School were completed in 2006, resulting in a new full-sized gymnasium and excellent program space. In addition to attractive classrooms, the school has a large cafeteria, an art room, gymnasium, weight room, a music room, a library, wood-working and machine shops, computer rooms and resource rooms. The school fields a co-ed soccer team as well as girls' and boys' basketball, baseball and softball teams.

As of 2014, facility goals included restoring the façade of the original building and addressing various building and site maintenance issues, which are periodically identified and scheduled for correction or repair. A security review conducted during the 2012-13 school year identified a stronger entryway and new interior

door locks as priorities. An energy audit of the building also indicated that the entryway is a source of major energy loss. The school department recently installed a 12 kW ground mounted photovoltaic system to offset the electric energy cost of running the school. In 2016, an additional ground mounted photovoltaic system is being proposed, with the assistance of grant funding, to offset high electricity costs and to serve as an educational tool.

Additional Challenges

Housing is the principal issue in hiring and retaining new teachers, as those who do not already possess stable, year-round housing tend to seek mainland positions. Turnover is an ongoing issue, ranging from one to four positions annually, although it is expected to stabilize at one to two positions annually on average in coming years.

Student travel to and from the mainland also presents a challenge in the form of attendance, requiring the school to adjust its schedule to reduce the impact of athletic travel on instructional time.

Public Sewer

The New Shoreham Wastewater Treatment Facility is located on Spring St. just south of the Old Harbor and Downtown area. This facility was originally designed as an Extended Aeration Plant with conventional removal limits for BOD₅ and Total Suspended Solids with liquid sludge disposal. Since the facility's original commissioned in 1978 it has undergone a number of process improvements:

- SOLIDS HANDLING AND SECONDARY SETTLING 1985
- ANOXIC/AERATION SYSTEM IN 1993 AND 2006
- HEADWORKS IN 1997
- CHLORINATION/DECHLORINATION FACILITIES IN 1997 AND 2014 AND SECONDARY SETTLING
- SECONDARY SETTLING IN 2006
- SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) (2014)

The 2008 Permit allowed the facility to increase its average daily permitted capacity from 300,000 GPD (gallons per day) to 450,000 GPD. The level of treatment has also increased from secondary treatment to an advanced level of treatment that includes a reduction in nutrients and residual chlorine in its effluent discharge.

The sewer district includes all of Old Harbor, and New Harbor as far west as Champlin's Marina. It extends south to include the Spring House Inn and restaurant on Spring Street and the Block Island School and the Medical Center on High Street, and west to include the Town Hall on Old Town Road and properties at the west end of Connecticut Avenue. It extends along Corn Neck Road as far as the Beachead restaurant. The collection system consists of over 3.5 miles of lateral and intercepting sewer pipelines, and five pump stations (see Appendix SF-1 for description and locations of the sewage collection and pumping system). *Map SF2 Public Sewer* displays the current boundary of the public sewer system along with sewer lines and pump station locations.

In addition to processing most of the sewage from the water district, including that from hotels, marinas and public facilities at both harbors, the plant also handles waste pumped by contractors from individual on-site systems and waste from boat pump outs. It is designed and permitted to process an average daily flow of 450,000 gallons, with a peak of 1.2 million gallons per day (GPD). The plant processes a wide range of wastewater flows, from a high of 300,000 GPD (in the summer peak) to a low of 50,000 GPD (during the winter months). The treated effluent is pumped into the ocean from the outfall pipe in the jetty located off of Spring Street.

As it now encompasses essentially all of the commercial areas of the island, the sewer service area is not proposed to be extended any further. Under the current facilities plan, the capacity of the treatment system is adequate to handle present and future wastewater volumes; no expansion is anticipated.

Public Water

Public water supply for the commercial area of Block Island was once provided by a private company. The water supply and distribution system was acquired by the Town in 1984 and operated as a town department, but is still referred to as the Block Island Water Company. Since 2000, operations and maintenance have been overseen by the Water District Commission, a Town Council appointed board.

With the exception of the area adjacent to and north of Sands Pond, the boundaries of the water district align closely with that of the sewer district. See *Map SF3 Water Supply* for the boundaries of the water district and water mains. In 2011, the water district was extended into the New Harbor commercial area. A large majority of residential properties on Block Island (estimated at 80%) are served by private wells.

The current capacity of the Block Island water system is .225 MGD (million gallons per day). See *Table SF-2* for average monthly and peak monthly water supplied in 2015. Block Island Water does not have an approved WSSMP (Water Supply Systems Management Plan). Block Island Water provides 50% of the total flow for the island in July and August.

	15-Jan	15-Feb	15-Mar	15-Apr	15-May	15-Jun	15-Jul	15-Aug	15-Sep	15-Oct	15-Nov	15-Dec
Average (MGD)	0.02001	0.02206	0.02206	0.03407	0.06216	0.09446	0.14581	0.14817	0.09105	0.04196	0.02492	0.02048
Peak (MGD)	0.03078	0.04965	0.03078	0.04406	0.09946	0.12383	0.17036	0.17448	0.15368	0.07978	0.03165	0.02577

The water supply comes from a well field north of Sands Pond, consisting of three main production wells. At any time, two of the wells are in operation, allowing one to be off-line but serving as a back-up during the high demand season. Three reverse osmosis units provide for 240,000 gallons per day of potable water. Storage capacity consists of two 150,000 gallon tanks.

Total average annual flow generated by the Water Company is 20 million gallons. Peak loads of over 4 million gallons a month occur in July and August, with about 180,000 gallons per day consumed on peak weekends. The water district also includes a “stand-by” service agreement with several large water users

(hotels, restaurants, Town Beach) who now rely on private wells. This has the potential to substantially add to water demand during the summer season. **INSERT 20 YEAR PROJECTION**

Over the years, the Water Company has made many system improvements, including reverse osmosis treatment; water main replacements, upgrades for fire protection and extensions; and a concentrate force main extension for a direct permitted discharge into the ocean.

Future demands on the water system may come from any of a number of sources. Further connections within the present water district and/or requests for extension could be precipitated by state regulatory mandates. Future expansion of the distribution lines may extend to small lots adjacent to the district where groundwater supply may be unsustainable, where there may be an endangerment to the public water, or where public health may be an issue.

State regulations require a backup emergency water supply plan. Unlike mainland towns, in an emergency New Shoreham cannot tap into another public water supply. At present, three smaller wells and surface water from both Sands Pond and Fresh Pond remain the approved backup sources.

Adequacy of water supply in the event of severe drought is a matter of public concern that goes beyond service to those connected to the town water system. The Water Company has planned carefully for emergencies, including drought, and has a well-considered system of primary sources with redundant back-up sources in the event of emergency need. Those on private wells are generally protected in that such wells are typically designed at a location and depth to provide adequate supply even in drought conditions. The Town's regulations include the management of on-site wastewater treatment systems and restrictions on underground storage tanks. Taken together, these efforts represent a robust in reducing the island's vulnerability in periods of low precipitation, and minimizing its effects on public health and safety, economic activity, and environmental resources.

Block Island's groundwater supplies are irreplaceable, and essential to the town's quality of life and economic wellbeing. The Town of New Shoreham has a long record of action to protect this critical resource. Island groundwater quality is currently excellent. A primary goal of this local comprehensive plan is to maintain the current high water quality for water supply and protection of unique habitat. Low density zoning for much of the island limits both development potential and future risk to water resources, particularly when coupled with other groundwater protection regulations. However, nitrogen levels in many of the public wells are slightly elevated, underscoring the need for continued implementation of the town's comprehensive wastewater management program. Leaks from underground fuel tanks and other hazardous material spills are an ongoing concern, especially in the wellhead protection area encompassing the downtown commercial district. Sewers in much of this area reduce risk of contamination from wastewater discharges provided sewer lines are watertight. However, sewers also reduce groundwater recharge, which can lower groundwater levels and promote salt water intrusion.

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems

As of 2015, there are 1,674 on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS's) on the island. Since the adoption, in the late 1990's, of the Wastewater Management Ordinance which regulates the installation of new on-site systems, and separate regulations in the Zoning Ordinance which provide for the maintenance and inspection of existing systems, Block Island has been aggressive in protecting its groundwater from failed and inadequate OWTS's.

Under the required inspection program for all OWTS's, conventional systems are inspected on a three year cycle, while alternative systems and systems within critical resource areas are inspected annually. The Town contracts with an environmental services company which provides and manages a database of all systems on the island. Since 2006, there have been 272 failed systems identified through the inspection program which have been replaced.

The Office of Wastewater Management oversees the inspection program with the objective of protecting the island's sole source aquifer, the Great Salt Pond, Fresh Pond and Sands Pond from any pollution from septic system effluent. It also reviews all new system designs prior to their submittal to the RI Department of Environmental Management for approval. This review ensures that proper design and treatment levels are adhered to for specific areas and soil conditions on the island.

One concern is the prevalence of septic system drain fields consisting of deep concrete chambers, referred to as galleys. Such drain fields are considered inadequate for pollution removal, particularly when the bottom of the drain field is located less than three feet from the seasonal high groundwater table. Galley drain fields are specifically prohibited in new or enlarged on-site wastewater systems, however, as of 2014 there are 242 existing systems on the island with galley drain fields. Local regulations requiring the replacement of these systems are being considered.

In addition, following the completion of the first maintenance inspection of all septic systems on the island, some drain fields could not be identified and were classified as "unknown". This raises concerns that many are not of an approved type, or could be failing. As of 2014, there are 282 systems on the island with unknown drain fields, meaning that their functioning or effectiveness in removing pollutants is not certain.

Among these systems with potentially inadequate or failing drain fields, 117 of them are within critical resource areas including the Great Salt Pond, Fresh Pond and Sands Pond watersheds. Identification and replacement of all failed systems must be done on Block Island, with priority placed on those systems within the critical resource areas.

Solid Waste Disposal

All of the solid waste generated on Block Island, including recyclables and sludge from the sewage treatment plant, is trucked off-island. With the exception of scrap metals, all waste is disposed of or processed at the state-owned Central Landfill (RIRRC) in Johnston, Rhode Island. Waste is taken to the town-owned transfer station on West Beach Road by residents, individual businesses and private haulers, where it is stored, sorted

and compacted in preparation for transport off the island. The cost of processing material on island far exceeds the cost of shipping to RIRRC.

The transfer station is a solid waste facility licensed by the RI Department of Environmental Management with an operating capacity of 25 tons per day. The Town contracts with a private company, currently Block Island Recycling Management, to operate the transfer station and to truck the waste and recyclables to the landfill and elsewhere. The facility itself, is in need of improvements, and specifically identified is the need for a drainage plan. With facility improvements including additional processing capabilities, more recyclables may be able to be removed from the waste stream, specifically construction and demolition debris.

The operation of the transfer station is a “pay as you throw” system. All entities pay a disposal fee for solid waste based on weight. Residential customers do not pay a fee for recyclables (nor for waste oil), although commercial customers do. A description of the management of the transfer station and the volumes of refuse and recyclable materials is contained in the Island Energy Plan. It also includes specific recommendations relating to recycling and the potential use of alternative technologies to dispose of solid waste.

There are separate fee schedules for appliances (white goods) and metals, mattresses and furniture (bulky items), batteries, tires and even automobiles, all of which are disposed of at the Central Landfill or recycled. Construction and demolition waste is disposed of at the same rate as the other solid waste, as is yard waste, the large majority of which consists of brush, which is chipped and stored, and when stockpiles reach a certain volume, shipped to the Central Landfill. In order to reduce transportation costs, it would be advantageous to compost leaf and yard waste on-island.

The Town has a separate services agreement with the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation to dispose of all waste from the island. RIRRC receives a tipping fee of \$32 per ton, the municipal rate, provided Block Island does not exceed its annual municipal cap. As with all communities, the cap is based on population. Because of the substantial increase in population and activity during the summer tourist and vacation season, RIRRC grants Block Island a seasonal cap adjustment allowing additional tonnage. As of FY 2017, the seasonal cap allotment is 1,079 tons and the Town is also permitted 28 tons of yard debris.

The operator of the transfer station serves as the Town’s agent, handling all payments to the RIRRC. As a result, there is no direct cost to the municipality to dispose of the waste generated on the island, with the exception of the waste generated by the Town itself (school, town hall, police and fire stations, town beach, etc).

In order to reduce fiscal and environmental costs, Town policies and programs should be in place to further the promotion and expansion of on-island recycling such as composting, and a more efficient reduction of both recyclable and other items that must be transported to mainland landfills. The Town should increase public education efforts and programs which promote composting by residents and businesses. Per State requirements, profit-sharing funds received from RIRRC must be directed towards programs that promote recycling and composting.

Currently, in cooperation with RIRRC, the transfer station holds a hazardous waste collection event every other year. Beyond that, island residents must transport their hazardous waste to RIRRC. Increased opportunities to dispose of hazardous waste properly and safely on island should be explored.

Solid Waste Recycling and Diversion Rates

The official recycling rate on Block Island, as reported by RIRRC annually, is approximately 20% of total waste (by tonnage). Many communities in Rhode Island have a higher recycling rate, but these rates are a measure of the residential waste only. On Block Island, the recycling rate is measured against all solid waste, including commercial, which makes up approximately 90% of the total.

New Shoreham Mandatory Recycling Rate (2015): 19.7%

State Average Mandatory Recycling Rate (2015): 36.0%

New Shoreham Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill (2015): 20.4%

State Average Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill (2015): 35.6%

As the rates above indicate, New Shoreham is below the State average recycling and diversion rates and the state mandated 35% recycling rate and 50% diversion rate. A goal of this plan is to identify steps the Town can take to achieve and exceed those rates.

Electric Power

Block Island's interest in alternative energy is related not only to the high cost of electricity on the island but a concern with dependence on fossil fuels and its environmental impact, particularly in this era of rising awareness of climate change. As stated in the Island Energy Plan: "life on the island is infused with a sense of self-reliance, a strong conservation ethic and sensitivity to the environment." A goal identified in the Island Energy Plan is to establish renewable energy systems at all feasible municipal locations, with specific emphasis on additional solar PV (photovoltaic) systems.

The privately owned Block Island Power Company (BIPCO) provides virtually all of the electric power needs of the island. However, beginning in the late 1980's, there was a movement toward use of individual solar panels, both domestic hot water and photovoltaic, as well as individual wind energy conversion systems (WECS). A few households are not connected to the BIPCO distribution system, demonstrating that it is feasible to use a combination of alternative energy sources to live off the grid.

As of 2016, there are 22 residential properties and 5 non-residential properties on the island that are registered with BIPCO, as well as two wind turbines. There may also be some additional residences which are off the grid supported by solar and unregistered.

There has been considerable discussion over the years on the need for and viability of additional turbines on the island, including larger capacity turbines.

A description of the power company and the electric power generation and distribution system are contained in the Island Energy Plan. A thorough discussion of the use of alternative energy sources and their related issues are also included. There are a number of specific recommendations regarding the future of the electric power generation and distribution system on the island, and the role of alternative energy sources, including solar and wind.

In September 2014, the offshore wind farm proposed by Deepwater Wind, LLC received its federal permits through the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. The first was for five wind turbine generators with a cable connection to Crescent Beach on Block Island, while the second was for the 21 mile cable to the mainland from Crescent Beach to Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett. A cable connection to a National Grid substation in Narragansett will bring the wind farm power to the mainland grid. Construction of the offshore wind farm is currently underway and is expected to be completed sometime in 2016.

Island Free Library

The mission of the Island Free Library is to fulfill the informational, cultural and recreational needs of its patrons by providing a full spectrum of library services. These include:

1. ACCESS TO PRINT, AUDIO, VIDEO AND ELECTRONIC FORMATS;
2. FOSTERING A LIFELONG LOVE OF READING WITH PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS; AND
3. PROMOTING COMPUTER LITERACY THROUGH APPROPRIATE FORMS OF INSTRUCTION.

The library has a full-time director and a staff of four. It offers a number of programs and activities for both children and adults that include arts and crafts, reading programs and book clubs, movie nights, computer instruction and musical events. The library is a strong community resource, encouraging use of its space by other groups and organizations for discussions, meetings and tutoring.

In 2002, the Island Free Library underwent extensive renovations and expansion, doubling its floor area, providing greatly expanded children's and juvenile areas, separate computer rooms for adults and children, and enlarged office space. The structure is currently adequate, however, technology will require continual upgrading, and children's services will also need to be gradually expanded in order to maintain compliance with State mandates.

Block Island Medical Center and Public Health Services

The Block Island Medical Center is a fully equipped medical facility which offers both daily care and urgent care services. Opened in 1989, it is the sole provider of medical care on the island. It is staffed year-round by a physician, a nurse practitioner and a registered nurse. It also provides facilities for telemedicine and regular visits by several specialists providing dental care, orthodontics, acupuncture, chiropractic care,

podiatry, and massage therapy. During the summer the medical staff supervises students and residents from Brown University Alpert Medical School who assist with patient care.

As expected, the Medical Center is busiest in the summer, a reflection of both the high number of daytrippers who may suffer a range of seasonal afflictions, from the minor (sunburns) to the more serious (broken bones or concussions from bicycle and moped accidents) and the medical needs and medical emergencies related to the substantial increase in the resident population during the summer months.

In addition to daily care, the Medical Center offers free blood pressure clinics, flu shot clinics and Lyme testing and referrals, and study groups. When critical care is needed, the medical center and the Block Island Rescue Squad, in conjunction with the ferry and airline companies and a regional helicopter ambulance service, arrange for and provide emergency transport to mainland hospitals.

The Medical Center is maintained and operated by Block Island Health Services, Inc. a private non-profit governed by an elected board which consists of seven from among its paid membership, two from the general public (New Shoreham registered voters or property owners) and an appointee from both Block Island Rescue and the Town Council. In addition to the physician, nurse practitioner and nurse, the staff includes an executive director, an office support specialist / receptionist and financial specialist. While it receives operating funds from the Town, the Medical Center also relies on patient fees, donations, grants and special event revenues.

The medical center property and an adjoining parcel which contains two staff residences, including the Doctor's House and the Davidson House for the Nurse Practitioner, are owned by the Town of New Shoreham. A major renovation was completed to the Doctor's House in 2016. **There still remains a long term need to provide additional housing for medical center staff, particularly for the summer residents and medical students.**

On Block Island the high per capita incidence of Lyme disease and the less common but often more serious (and harder to diagnose) babesiosis, both tick borne viral diseases, are of special concern. The high incidence is most likely related to the large population of deer, who host part of the life cycle of the deer tick which carries and transmits the diseases to humans. The Town Council appointed an advisory Deer Task Force in 2011 to recommend policies to achieve a reduction in the deer herd.

The Medical Center tracks the number of Lyme disease bacterium and babesiosis cases, and provides this information to the Town and the Deer Task Force on a regular basis. The center diagnosed 73 cases of Lyme in 2013 and 53 cases in 2014. However, the actual number of cases are likely underreported as many vacationers contract the disease on the island but are diagnosed at home, and others may be unaware of their infection.

Mental Health

A mental health task force referred to as NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Block Island has been a major advocate for increased mental illness support and services on Block Island. The group's goals are to bring more on-island services, to educate the community about mental illness and to support families with mental illness. A member of the Medical Center staff serves on the task force.

Currently services related to mental health on Block Island include: free telemedicine conferences with psychiatrists at Butler Hospital in Providence and Brown University Medical School; public educational programs on various mental conditions and illnesses; response training; and a family support group. As of 2015, the Medical Center provides the space for a part-time case worker who handles referrals for the telemedicine program. This position is hired by NAMI (national) and Butler Hospital and is paid through fundraising efforts by NAMI Block Island. NAMI Block Island is advocating for a full-time staff person with broader functions and a long-term funding source for the position.

The Block Island Medical Center, NAMI Block Island, the school department, the police department, the churches and various island organizations must work together to address public health concerns on Block Island, particularly mental health and substance abuse. It is recommended that the NAMI BI Mental Health Task Force continue to expand its task force to include representation from various organizations that will assist the group in better advocating for the identification of at risk individuals, provision of counseling, and identification of available resources both on and off island. Currently serving on the NAMI BI Task Force are individuals who also represent the School, Library, Medical Center, Wellness Coalition, and Planning Board.

Telemedicine

The difficulty of travel to places where such specialized health services are available poses an inherent challenge for Block Island residents. In an effort to combat this challenge, there is a strong desire to increase telemedicine opportunities on Block Island. Of particular need, are telemedicine conferences for children.

Community Center and Services

The Old Harbor Meadow Community Center was built in 2002, and is run by the Block Island Economic Development group (BIED). BIED is a private non-profit whose mission is to improve the economic and social conditions for residents of Block Island, including development of affordable housing. The community center is located in the center of Old Harbor and is part of a development, Old Harbor Meadows, which includes eight ownership and one rental low and moderate income housing units. The community center also houses a private pre-school. The space is available to rent for community activities such as senior activities, art gallery space, or meeting space for town boards and island organizations.

Early Learning Center

The Early Learning Center is housed in half of the community center. Its location off the street provides easy access to the Island Free Library and other community activities and natural resources. The original center was founded in 1977 and operated as a private nursery school by the Town of New Shoreham. When it moved to the Old Harbor Meadow Community Center building, its services were expanded to include a preschool and child care program. The Early Learning Center is a state licensed teaching facility. It is funded by tuition, support from the Town, and private donations.

Senior Services

Census figures indicate a large increase in the number of Block Island residents over the age of 55. A break-down by age of island residents as counted in both the 2000 and the 2010 Census is shown in Table SF-3 New Shoreham Census by Age.

Age	2000	2010
Under 5	63	36
5-19	137	133
20-34	163	126
35-54	353	330
55-74	230	329
75+	64	97
TOTAL	1,010	1,051

The small community and the isolation of living on an island, particularly during the winter, present special challenges for seniors, but efforts are made to meet these challenges. Resources on Block Island available to seniors include:

- * THE PRIVATELY-OWNED COMMUNITY CENTER, DISCUSSED ABOVE, WHICH PROVIDES A COMFORTABLE SPACE FOR SENIORS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES.
- * THE MEDICAL CENTER, OPERATED BY BLOCK ISLAND HEALTH SERVICES, INC., WHICH PROVIDES PRIMARY CARE, WITH SUPPORT FROM A WELL-EQUIPPED RESCUE SQUAD. LONG TERM CARE IS AVAILABLE AT NEARBY MAINLAND FACILITIES.
- * VOLUNTEER AGENCIES AND LOCAL CHURCHES WHICH PROVIDE HOME CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING, AND THE "MARY D. FUND" WHICH PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
- * THE SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHOSE CHARGE IS TO:
 1. ORGANIZE PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS (IN ADDITION TO ALREADY ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS SUCH AS LUNCH, MEDICAL, AND RECREATION PROGRAMS);
 2. IDENTIFY AND PROMOTE SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; AND
 3. CONSULT WITH THE ISLAND'S SENIORS AND ADVISE TOWN COUNCIL ABOUT THEIR NEEDS, ISLAND-UNIQUE PROBLEMS, AND SUGGEST SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS THAT WILL BENEFIT BLOCK ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS.

A variety of recreation and social programs are currently available, including lunches, and inexpensive off-island trips for shopping and shows. Seniors on the island are typically actively involved in community and civic affairs.

The Senior Advisory Committee has conducted surveys of the senior population on Block Island. Results of a survey from 2014 of over 300 senior residents indicate that 91 live alone and 75 need assistance with travel off-island. Ten percent of the 300 seniors surveyed said they currently receive personal care assistance and 180 seniors indicated that they may require the services of a personal care assistant in the near future.

Providing an option for seniors to age in place is an important policy and will require that the town proactively prepare for and consider the needs of its aging population including assisted living needs.

Public Safety

Block Island's public safety buildings include the police station, built in 1970, the attached fire barn, built in 1972, and the newer rescue barn, built in 2007. These structures are located on the same parcel on Beach Avenue in the village between the two harbors, but closer to New Harbor. There is a need for a new Fire Station, which was identified as an action in the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Block Island's police, volunteer fire and rescue squad, and the harbor master all provide critical public safety services in an efficient, sensitive and highly skilled manner. Relations with the community at large are strong, not only because of the quality of the services but also because almost all of the staff are year-round island residents. There are no issues of inadequate funding or staffing during the off-season. It is important for the island to maintain this high level of public safety, especially during the tourist season. It is anticipated that at some point in the future the island will need the state police presence to expand beyond just weekends to every day during the peak summer period. Paid Fire and Rescue staff may also be necessary at some time in the future.

Police

As of 2015, the Block Island Police Department has five full-time officers, including the chief, as well as four full-time and two part-time dispatchers. Eight additional officers, as well as three community service officers (bicycle patrol) and one police dog (K-9) work seasonally to handle the extra demand during the busy tourist season. During the months of July and August there is also a Rhode Island State Trooper presence on the island Friday through Sunday.

The department embraces a community oriented policing style typical of a small geographically isolated community where the officers and residents are well known to each other. The police on Block Island rarely deal with serious crime and even in the summer with the large influx of visitors and vacationers, the major challenge in recent years has been managing crowds of day trippers. Incidences of public intoxication occur particular around the 4th of July holiday. The New Shoreham Police Department maintains a Facebook page and is helped out by the Block Island Times which publishes a page every year in the *Summer Times* to guide visitors: "When You're On The Block". This page summarizes the relevant town ordinances, restrictions and policies, and provides phone numbers and other helpful information.

Fire and Rescue

The Block Island Volunteer Fire and Rescue protects life and property on the island and provides assistance in medical emergencies. Fire and Rescue is staffed by about 75 volunteers. The rescue squad maintains its status as a volunteer organization with the exception of a twelve-week period in the summer when people are paid to be on call in order to avoid any serious lapse in caring for the community and its visitors. Charges are limited to costs for transport to the mainland. The department also conducts fire safety awareness and training in CPR, First Aid and other courses.

Harbors

The Harbors Department, staffed by a harbor master and administrative assistant, manages Block Island's two harbor areas, Old Harbor and New Harbor (The Great Salt Pond). Responsibilities include issuing mooring permits, managing the town rental moorings and monitoring dockages and overnight anchorages in the Great Salt Pond. The department also issues shell fishing licenses. During the summer the Harbors Department hires over 20 seasonal employees who work between Old Harbor and New Harbor (mostly New Harbor) running the pump-out boats, collecting mooring fees, working in the department office in New Harbor (Boat Basin) and as shellfish wardens.

The Harbors Department prepares an annual "Harbors Guide" to guide visitors arriving by boat. It addresses pump-outs, the mandated landing fee (fifty cents) and the location of showers and other amenities; and it summarizes the harbor ordinances, describes the allowable anchorage areas, and provides phone numbers and other helpful information. A description of the town harbors and infrastructure is also included in a 2013 report "Block Island Harbors Sea Level Rise and Adaptation Study." Improved harbor facilities, including a Welcome Center, have been identified as a need in order to maintain and attract visitors to the island arriving and staying overnight on personal watercraft in New Harbor.

Municipal Governance

Town Hall

The Town Hall was rebuilt and expanded in 2007. It houses all municipal departments, with the exception of public safety and public works, and provides the official meeting space for the Town Council and all other boards, commissions and committees. A listing of all Town of New Shoreham departments and services is contained in Appendix SF-2.

Boards and Commissions

A listing of all town of New Shoreham sponsored or affiliated boards, commission and committees is contained in Appendix SF-3.

Capital Improvement Program

As required by charter, The Town has a capital improvement program for long term facility needs. In 2014, the Planning Board formed a subcommittee, the Large Capital Asset Subcommittee (LCAS), to work on a ten to fifteen year strategy for all town properties and buildings. The committee was tasked with:

- * COMPILE A LIST OF ASSETS AND FIELD EVALUATE;
- * IDENTIFY THE CURRENT AND POTENTIAL LONG TERM USE OF EACH PROPERTY;
- * IDENTIFY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR/REHABILITATION NEEDS;
- * IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS AND CONSIDER FUNDING SOURCES; AND
- * MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN MANAGER

These tasks should include public outreach and meetings, and culminate in the preparation of a summary report with both short and long term recommendations and solutions. As a result of the LCAS work, New Shoreham created a new town position effective July 2015, a Facilities Manager, to oversee, maintain and plan for the use of and improvements to town buildings. The establishment of the Facilities Manager is the first step towards the long term goal of proactively managing town facility maintenance needs.

There has been increasing interest in having a range of community facilities and gathering spaces. Specifically, the following facility needs have been identified:

1. A COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR LARGER ASSEMBLIES AND ACTIVITIES.
2. A DEDICATED SPACE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS TO SOCIALIZE.
3. A "TEEN CENTER" FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GATHER AFTER SCHOOL AND ON EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS.
4. A FITNESS CENTER
5. AN INDOOR POOL FOR INSTRUCTION, RECREATION AND THERAPEUTIC USE DURING OFF-SEASON MONTHS.

In general, the available programming is as important as, or more important than, developing a new physical space. The community has many facilities available for community activities, both public and private.

Expanded programming can often be achieved through creative use of existing facilities, especially during the shoulder and off-tourist seasons.

HOUSING FOR MUNICIPAL STAFFING

MULTIPLE TOWN SERVICES AND DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING POLICE, HARBORS, AND THE SCHOOL, HAVE IDENTIFIED ATTAINABLE YEAR-ROUND AND SEASONAL HOUSING AS A SUBSTANTIAL CHALLENGE IN THE HIRING AND RETENTION OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. The Thomas House,

owned by the Town, has been pivotal in providing a limited amount of temporary housing for government functions. The second town-owned facility that currently provides temporary / seasonal housing for municipal employees is the Coast Guard Station. However, the structure is in need of significant repair and a more appropriate long-term use for the waterfront property is being explored. A substantial number of seasonal employees, including but not limited to: State Police; local police; community service officers; clam wardens; harbor personnel; life guards; and medical center staff are required to fulfill a variety of municipal functions during the peak tourism season. The Town also is in need of attainable rental housing for longer term year-round personnel such as teachers. Given the private housing market is not providing for these housing needs, the Town must consider the creation of additional municipally-owned housing units for its staffing needs. Currently, the Town does incur housing costs related to specific municipal positions and government functions, as well as, overnight accommodations for town consultants. An analysis should be conducted to determine costs currently incurred and estimated costs related to providing town-owned and operated housing for municipal staffing needs. See Housing Chapter for additional information and discussion.

Stormwater Management

Block Island has a limited amount of stormwater infrastructure. Therefore, maintenance needs, including the annual cleaning of catch basins, and associated costs are minimal and are currently covered by the town's budget. The town is currently exploring stormwater management measures to ensure the island's water quality, particularly The Great Salt Pond and drinking water supplies, remain of high quality. It is anticipated the Town will take steps in the short-term to increase public education on the importance of stormwater management and to complete a management plan for the Great Salt Pond watershed.

Sustainable Development and Fiscal Responsibility

The needs and desires for high quality public services and facilities must be balanced with the needs and desires for both environmental and fiscal sustainability.

The provision of community services and facilities must be done in a manner that reflects the capability of both community resources and the island environment to sustain growth and demand. On the one hand, Block Island must prepare for the long term impacts of "build-out" and the resulting demand for services, a

function of both total population and the socioeconomic profile of that population. On the other hand, the provision of services and facilities should be done in a manner that supports land use goals, natural resource protection and the long-term ability of the town to fiscally maintain increased services and facilities. For example, the water and sewer districts should be designed to serve the goal of a compact village center but not to encourage growth beyond it.

Sustainable development is linked with almost every other major goal of this comprehensive plan – compact development in the village and harbor areas and low density residential in the countryside; protection of valuable open space, habitat areas and the sole source aquifer; reduced energy consumption and transportation-related congestion; and a reliance on sustainable and manageable economic development. Block Island must consider the allocation of its services in a way that meets, or does not detract from, these goals.

The potential for providing additional or enhanced services as well as reducing costs through regional approaches deserves exploration. Education, tourism, and utilities all have apparent potential as activities or services that could be done in conjunction with other communities. For example, the Island Energy Plan includes a recommendation that the Town pursue a regional composting facility with other Washington County communities. However, Block Island's geographic isolation make such arrangements challenging, particularly coming up with an equitable way of determining expenses and benefits.

Goals, Policies & Implementation Actions

Goal SF1: Meet current needs and plan for anticipated future needs of residents for municipal services and facilities

POLICY	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMEFRAME
SF1.A. Continue to provide a quality K-12 education which utilizes the latest educational tools and technology	SF1.A.1. Make reliable high-speed internet available to the Block Island School and library in order to maintain and expand its educational programming	School; Information Technology	Short-term
	SF1.A.2. Undertake efforts to maintain and improve the long term viability of the public school system in response to reduced enrollment, including a plan to expand education on the island	School	Ongoing
SF1.B. Proactively plan for the long term use and maintenance of all town owned buildings and properties	SF1.B.1. Include costs of necessary and significant improvements to town facilities in the capital budget	Facilities Manager; Planning Board; Finance; Town Manager; Town Council	Ongoing
	SF1.B.2. Explore reuse and rehabilitation of existing town structures for identified community needs	Facilities Manager; Town Manager; Planning Board	Short-term
SF1.C. Support community health needs including mental health	SF1.C.1. Expand access to mental health treatment and substance abuse counseling	Block Island Medical Center; NAMI Block Island; Town Council	Ongoing
	SF1.C.2. Increase telemedicine opportunities	Block Island Medical Center; Information Technology	Short-term
	SF1.C.3. Assist in identifying a long-term funding source for a mental health case worker	NAMI Block Island; Town Council	Short-term
	SF1.C.4. Ensure town departments are represented and contribute to NAMI BI task force	NAMI Block Island; Town Council	Short-term
SF1.D. Provide opportunities for aging in place and support services for seniors	SF1.D.1. Evaluate current and anticipated future need for additional senior support services and staff including a social worker	Senior Coordinator; Senior Committee; Town Council	Medium-term

	SF1.D.2. Promote and permit the development of appropriately located assisted living housing and transportation services	Senior Committee; Town Council	Long-term
SF1.E. Make health and safety of residents and visitors of the highest priority	SF1.E.1. Communicate public safety needs to the State including a potential need for additional State Police presence during summer months	Police; Town Manager	Short-term; Ongoing
	SF1.E.2. Evaluate need for paid fire or rescue personnel	Town Manager; Town Council; Fire	Medium-term
SF1.F. Ensure municipal staffing needs are not compromised by lack of attainable housing	SF1.F.1. Conduct a cost analysis comparing average annual costs associated with housing town staff and consultants and costs associated with the development and ownership of municipal housing for staff.	Town Manager; Facilities Manager	Short-term

Goal SF2: Ensure environmental and fiscal sustainability in the provision of municipal services and facilities

<u>POLICY</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</u>	<u>TIMEFRAME</u>
SF2.A. Promote natural resource conservation, particularly among island visitors	SF2.A.1. Work with Tourism Council, Chamber of Commerce and other partners to promote water conservation, energy conservation and solid waste reduction among tourism industry and visitors	Conservation Commission	Ongoing
SF2.B. Continually explore ways to reduce the costs of delivering services and operating facilities without compromising quality	SF2.B.1. Utilize on-site renewable sources of energy where feasible	Facilities Manager	Ongoing
	SF2.B.2. Explore regional provision of services opportunities	Town Manager; Town Council	Ongoing
SF2.C. Maintain tourism economy by providing quality facilities and amenities for visitors	SF2.C.1. Implement plans to provide improved facilities including a welcome center at New Harbor for visitors arriving by personal watercraft	Harbors; Town Council; Town Manager	Long-term

SF2.D. Meet or exceed the state's mandated 35% recycling rate and 50% diversion rates for solid waste	SF2.D.1. Conduct a waste audit of municipal facilities	Town Manager	Short-term
	SF2.D.2. Launch composting program and public education campaign	Conservation Commission; Town Council	Short-term
	SF2.D.3. Provide incentives to residents to compost and increase recycling efforts	Conservation Commission; Town Council	Ongoing
	SF2.D.4. Make necessary upgrades to the transfer station including drainage improvements and improved processing capabilities	Town Council; Town Manager; Facilities Manager	Long-term
SF2.E. Increase water quality protection efforts including stormwater management	SF2.E.1. Educate the public on the problems associated with impaired stormwater quality, the conditions which contribute to impaired water quality, and the actions which can be taken by the community both individually and as a whole to improve the quality of stormwater runoff	Planning Board; Building, Zoning, Land Use, & Planning; Public Works; Town Council	Short-term; Ongoing
	SF2.E.2. Complete a watershed management plan	Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning; Planning Board; Public Works; Town Council	Medium-term
	SF2.E.3. Review and strengthen current regulations regarding LID (low impact development) (NR2.A.3.)	Building, Zoning, Land Use & Planning; Planning Board; Town Council	Medium-term
	SF2.E.4. Continue to identify inadequately functioning or failed systems through an inspection and monitoring program, first targeting critical resource areas	OWTS Inspector	Ongoing
	SF2.E.5. Draft regulations which will require the eventually phase out septic systems which do not meet current standards for on-site treatment.	Planning Board; Town Council	Short-term

Timeframes: Short-term (1-3 years); Medium-term (4-6 years); Long-term (7-10 years)

APPENDIX SF-1

NEW SHOREHAM SEWAGE COLLECTION AND PUMPING SYSTEM

The New Shoreham Water Pollution Control Facility's collection system consists of 3.5 miles of lateral and intercepting sewer pipelines and five (5) pump stations. The general layout of the collection system is presented in Figure 6-1.

The lateral system consists of 14,500 feet of 8-inch diameter sewer pipes, while the intercepting lines consist of 3,700 feet of 10-inch through 15-inch diameter sewer pipes. The pressure system consists of 910 feet of 4-inch diameter sewer pipes.

InterceptorsOcean Avenue Interceptor West

The Ocean Avenue Interceptor West begins at Ocean Avenue Pump Station No. 2 and terminates at the intersection of West Side Road and Ocean Avenue. The line consists of 750 feet of 10-inch sewer pipes. It serves BIED Housing ("West Side Twenty"), Champlin's Marina, the Block Island Boat Basin, Payne's Dock and two hotels; the service area is principally composed of business properties.

Ocean Avenue Interceptor East

The Ocean Avenue Interceptor East starts at Ocean Avenue Pump Station No. 1 and terminates at the intersection of Ocean Avenue and Beach Avenue. The line consists of 2,600 feet of 12-inch diameter and 500 feet of 10-inch diameter sewer pipes. The upstream contributor is the Ocean Avenue Pump Station No. 2, and the incremental contributors are both commercial and residential.

High Street Connector

The High Street Connector is located 200 feet west of Water Street. It originates on High Street 200 feet west of Water Street and follows a right-of-way in a northerly direction to Chapel Street, paralleling Water Street. The line is 560 feet long. The service area encompasses High Street and Spring Street and consists of both commercial establishments and residential properties.

Chapel Street Interceptor

The Chapel Street Interceptor serves the majority of the sewer area. The interceptor starts at the intersection of Chapel Street and Water Street and proceeds in a westerly direction along Chapel Street to its point of termination at the intersection of Old Town Road and Chapel Street. The interceptor is 1,100 feet long and consists of 400 feet of 10-inch sewer pipes and 700 feet of 12-inch diameter sewer pipes. The upstream contributors are both commercial and residential.

Water Street Interceptor

The Water Street Interceptor serves the entire collection system. The interceptor consists of 800 feet of 15-inch diameter sewer pipes that commences at the Old Harbor Pump Station and proceeds in a westerly direction in a right-of-way to Water Street, then northerly to its point of termination at the intersection of Water Street and Chapel Street.

Pump Stations

Champlin's Marina Pump Station

The Champlin's Marina Pump Station is located at Champlin's Marina serving 240 boat slips, a restaurant, theater and apartments. The pump station is a below-ground lift station with a wetwell located in the lower level, and a pump chamber located in the upper level.

Block Island Boat Basin Pump Station

The Block Island Boat Basin Pump Station is located at the Block Island Boat Basin serving 70 boat slips, a restaurant and a grocery store. The pump station is a below-ground lift station with a lower level serving as the wetwell, and an upper level for pump motors and controls.

Ocean Avenue Pump Station No. 1

Ocean Avenue Pump Station No. 1 is located on Ocean Avenue, 600 feet east of Connecticut Avenue. The pump station is a below-ground lift station serving an area from Harbor Pond to Champlin's Marina. The station feeds a force main along Ocean Avenue in an easterly direction to Old Town Road, then southerly along Old Town Road to the Chapel Street Interceptor.

Ocean Avenue Pump Station No. 2

The Ocean Avenue Pump Station No. 2 services Champlin's Marina, the Block Island Boat Basin Pump Station and the commercial and residential establishments along West Side Road and Ocean Avenue. The pump station is a below-ground lift station feeding a force main along Ocean Avenue to the Ocean Avenue East Interceptor at Beach Avenue and Ocean Avenue.

Old Harbor Pump Station

The Old Harbor Pump Station is located on Water Street, adjacent to the New Shoreham Wastewater Treatment Facility. This is the main pump station for the collection system conveying all the wastewater flows via a 6-inch force main to the treatment facility. The pump station is an above-ground cast-in-place pump station consisting of a pump chamber and a wetwell chamber with a common concrete wall.

APPENDIX SF-2

TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM
DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

BUILDING, ZONING, LAND USE AND PLANNING - Building permits and inspections, land development

FINANCE - Financial accounting and management, payroll and benefits, water and sewer utility billing, tax assessment and collection

FIRE AND RESCUE (volunteer)

HARBORS - Management of the Town's two harbor areas Old Harbor and New Harbor (Great Salt Pond), including shellfish licensing and mooring field management

GIS / IT - Enterprise-wide development and management of the Town's Geographic Information System and information technology assets

LIBRARY – Island Free Library

POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC WORKS - Responsible for town facilities and roads

RECREATION - Year-round recreational programs, facilities and services for all ages in the community

TAX ASSESSMENT - Assessment of real estate, tangible property and motor vehicles, administration of personal exemptions, and production of the Town's annual tax rolls

TAX COLLECTIONS - Collection of property taxes and related fees

TOWN CLERK - Town Council actions, ordinances, licenses, land evidence recording, marriage licenses, birth, death and marriage records, voter registration, public records, probate court, elections and town meetings

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT - On-site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) inspection and maintenance, public awareness

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APPENDIX SF-3

TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

BLOCK ISLAND HOUSING BOARD - Provide affordable housing opportunities for year round residents

BLOCK ISLAND LAND TRUST - Preservation of open space for conservation, recreation, aquifer protection and agricultural uses

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW - Review property assessment appeals

BOARD OF ASSESSORS - Assessment of real property, personal property and motor vehicle taxes

BOARD OF CANVASSERS - Voter registration and elections

COMMISSION ON MOTOR VEHICLES FOR HIRE - Set taxi rates and regulations

CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Advisory board addressing environmental issues and policies

DEER TASK FORCE - Recommend ways to reduce deer population to lower incidence of Lyme disease and babesiosis

ELECTRIC UTILITY TASK GROUP - Evaluate and pursue public ownership of the power source on the island

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE - Plan for and respond to emergency situations

HARBORS COMMITTEE - Oversee the marine operations of Old and New Harbors

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION - Review and approve developments within the local Historic District

JUVENILE HEARING REVIEW BOARD - Hear juvenile court cases

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES - Oversee operations of the Island Free Library

LARGE CAPITAL ASSET COMMITTEE - Develop long-term strategy for use and maintenance of all town buildings and properties (Planning Board subcommittee)

NEW SHOREHAM TOURISM COUNCIL - Promote tourism and enhance its experience on Block Island

NORTH LIGHT COMMISSION - Oversee the operations and maintenance of the town owned North Lighthouse

OLD HARBOR TASK FORCE - Address planning issues in the Old Harbor area, and plan for public improvements

PLANNING BOARD - Review and approve all subdivisions and land development projects, undertake comprehensive planning

RECREATION BOARD - Oversee the programs and facilities of the Recreation Department

SCHOOL COMMITTEE - Oversee the School Department, develop annual budget for the Block Island school system

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Oversee operations of the Senior Center and senior activities

SEWER DISTRICT COMMISSION - Oversee management of the public sewage collection and treatment system, recommend sewer rates

SHELLFISH COMMISSION - Regulation and enforcement of commercial and private shellfishing in the Great Salt Pond

WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION - Oversee management of the public water distribution and treatment system, recommend water rates

ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW - Hear zoning applications, and appeals from decisions of the Building Official and Planning Board

BLOCK ISLAND PREVENTION TASK FORCE - Community based drug and alcohol abuse prevention task force (state funded)

BLOCK ISLAND EARLY LEARNING CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Oversee operations of the Block Island Early Learning Center

BLOCK ISLAND HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Oversee operations of the Block Island Medical Center
