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CRMC to hold Aquidneck Island meeting

MIDDLETOWN – The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council will be holding an informational public meeting on the Aquidneck Island Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), which it is currently developing for the city of Newport and towns of Middletown and Portsmouth, on Thursday, Oct. 16 from 7-9 p.m. at the Middletown Town Hall.

The CRMC is developing the SAMP for the western side of the island with the cooperation of the three Aquidneck Island municipalities, the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, and the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant. Staff from the agency and university will be attending, as will planning officials from the city and towns.

The purpose of the public meeting is to present the policy and performance standards that will be proposed as part of the SAMP. The policy, the CRMC Aquidneck Island Coastal Development (ACD) Regulations, provides a permitting option that aids the regulatory process for new coastal development within identified growth centers along the west side of the island. The policy also aims to preserve the valuable natural and recreational corridors and aspects within this region. The SAMP boundary is based on the Aquidneck Island West Side Master Plan boundary area, and the ACD regulations support the Aquidneck Island West Side Master Plan, other local plans, and all state and federal CRMC requirements. Public attendance is encouraged, and those interested will have an opportunity to ask questions about the SAMP and the standards.

For more information on the Aquidneck Island SAMP, go to the CRMC web site at <http://www.crmc.ri.gov/samp/aquidneck.html>. For more information on the CRMC's other special area management plans, go to www.crmc.ri.gov.