

received
8/6/19 @ 9:25am
JRW

August 5, 2019

Town Clerk Jennifer West

Please schedule my presentation to our Portsmouth Town Council, to be heard on their meeting of August 12, 2019

My name is John Vitkevich, I reside at 119 Hummock Avenue, Portsmouth RI since 1974.

In 1980, I purchased 4 place mats of the Mt Hope Bridge with the incandescent bulbs illuminating the suspension cables and superstructure, aka Towers.

Two years ago I had a new copy made, with corrections and presented the RITBA with 18 of them to use in their conference room.

On October 24, 2019 the Mt Hope Bridge is Celebrating 90 years, This is BIG!

90 years of Passage over our Beautiful Bays, Narraganset and Mt Hope.

90 years of Commerce exchanged between our two communities in employment and tourism.

A fitting adornment for the 90th is to have RITBA re-install the superstructure (Tower) lighting from top to the bottom with the current white LED lights. That is 4 cables of lights, 2 for the Bristol Tower, 2 for the Portsmouth Tower of approximately 250' each+/-

I witnessed how well the RITBA celebrated the Newport Pell Bridge of 50 years a month ago.

What a great recognition for the Newport Pell Bridge at 50 and the RITBA went all out.

I am Proud of the maintenance and upkeep the RITBA is performing daily on all 4 structures.

Mt Hope deserves this refitting of the superstructure lighting for everyone to view & enjoy.

These lights would differentiate the Mt Hope Bridge from the Newport Bridge from the air as we fly over these two bridges landing or leaving TF Green.

I started this campaign over a year ago by speaking with Executive Director Earl Buddy Croft and Engineer Eric Offenburg. "Go Away Kid, You're bothering me" is how I was received.

They never said no, but never said yes, or even maybe.

Our Town Council's unanimous Resolution to the RITBA to install these lights by the 90th Birthday of Oct 24 will show the Community Support

Other organizations will be asked to contact RITBA directly in support of this LED lighting re-installation.

History indicates it was foggy night in 1975 when a ship hit the Portsmouth side of this bridge and pulled the old incandescent wires and bulbs down. It may also be July of 1978. I am searching for the last time the superstructure aka "Towers" had working lights. They were never replaced due to the cost of electric service and the old energy robbing incandescent bulbs that didn't last long.

I am available to answer any questions by phone 401 952 1953 or by email johnvit53@gmail.com prior to the meeting.

This request is to benefit our communities on the East Bay by the reinstallation of the superstructure lights for the Mt Hope Bridge at 90 years old.

Attachments:

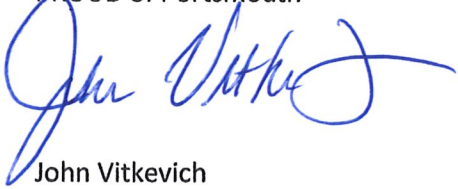
The original placemat with the Mt Hope Bridge and Newport RI.

The Mt. Hope Bridge corrected copied from original placemat.

They are 11" x 17" I have printed color copies for the Town Council.

Thank You,

PROUD of Portsmouth

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Vitkevich", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

John Vitkevich

Portsmouth On Rhode Island