



JAMESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: R. Laman, B. Lundy, A. Kuhn-Hines, S. Shim-Gorelick

Absent: R. Shein, L. Orsi

I. **Roll Call and Call to Order: 7:05 pm**

II. **Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting Minutes: March 14, 2023, **Motion to approve Meeting minutes 1st Bob Laman, 2nd Susan Shim-Gorelick, all in favor - motion passed.**

III. **OPEN FORUM:**

A) **Scheduled Requests to Address:** Chris Powell re: Dogs on Kit Wright Trail issues J. Christopher Powell (Chris), Jamestown Conservation Commission Trail Steward, addressed the JCC about his concerns regarding the impacts dogs and cats are having on the Island wildlife populations, especially on Town-owned parks, beaches, and trails. Chris provided numerous articles and presented research concerning the impacts of dogs on wildlife trails, especially during the peak nesting and activity periods for shorebirds and several other ground nesting bird species (e.g., Ovenbirds, Black & White warblers, Wood Thrush). Chris reported that the peak Shorebird activity periods for Rhode Island were centered around May 1 thru October 31st for the Spring and Fall peak activity/migration periods. Chris also provided research and statistics from Dr. Charles Clarkson, Director of Avian research for RI Audubon Society. The 2023 State of Our Birds report by Dr. Clarkson shows that 30% of species that breed on Audubon properties are showing long term population declines over the past 50 years. Based on this research and evidence, Chris recommends proposing the following amendments to the JTN Dog Ordinance:

Amend the period that dogs must be leashed to May 1st to October 31st (the current Dog Ordinance is May 15th to October 1st) on Town owned beaches, and trails with the following exception: that Dogs must be leashed at all times on the Kit Wright Nature Trail and South Pond trail. Both trails have been posted as such for many years. All pets are prohibited at the Conanicut Island Sanctuary Trail and has been posted as such for years.

The JCC discussed these recommendations and agreed to draft a memo for JCC review and further discussion before proposing any amendments to the Dog Ordinance to the Town Council.

B) **Non-scheduled Requests to Address:** None

IV. **CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**

A) Trail Map GIS mapping invoice-No invoice submitted yet

B) Discussed printing options and costs for Earth Day Fair banner/posters; JTN Press ads to advertise Earth Day Fair. **Motion to approve reimbursement for Earth Day Fair printing costs to Barbara Lundy for \$93.62, 1st Joyce Antoniello, 2nd Bob Laman, all in favor - motion passed.**

V. CRMC, RIDEM AND TOWN OF JAMESTOWN ORDINANCE REVIEW

Reviewed April 2023 CRMC Calendar for any JCC relevant issues

http://www.crmc.ri.gov/calendars/2023_04.html

VI. Old Business & Committee Reports:

- A) **Rights of Way/Parks/Greenways & Public Access:** No updates on Trail Grant applications for upgrading and adapting the Kit Wright trail, as there has been no new announcements from RI DEM or other granting sources with funding available. The JCC will keep searching for trail grant funding opportunities. Hull Cove Trail update: Town has finally received final approval of the boardwalk construction plan from CRMC. The town (recreation department) will construct and install the Hull Cove boardwalk trail in the Fall 2023-after the Summer/ Fort Getty season is closed. The recreation department is installing a split rail fence on the parking lot side at Mackerel Cove-and will coordinate dune planting in May with the JCC-the town will possibly provide funding for the purchase of dune plants-and the JCC will install and oversee the dune planting and restoration. Anne Kuhn-Hines attended a meeting with the new town administrator, Ed Mello, the new town building inspector, Peter Medeiros, Lisa Bryer (Town Planner), Jim Turenne (Land Trust), Joe Cannon and Ann Gagnon (Jamestown Shores Association) to discuss follow up procedures and process for taking action on 5 reports of ongoing encroachment on Town-owned Tax lots in the Jamestown Shores. The town is going to send out letters, formally notifying the abutter of their encroachment, requiring them to cease their encroachment activities (cutting of lawn, landscaping, storing boats, fire pits, etc.).
- B) **Land Protection and Stewardship:** Barbara Lundy reported that work is progressing with local Jamestown professional graphic designers with GIS skills on updating, designing, and producing a revised Conanicut Island Trails Guide. Barbara Lundy will explore printing costs with a couple of printing companies-and the JCC will then discuss how many to order and financing from the Town for printing costs.
- C) **Public Education:** Earth Day 2023- revisioning Earth Day: Barbara Lundy led discussion about the details (setup time, refreshments, logistics) for hosting JCC's "Earth Day Fair" on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10 AM – 2 PM at the Recreation Center in Jamestown. This fair will be set up with separate tables or booths for each organization (Sustainable Jamestown, Land Trust, Taylor Point, CISF, Coalition Center for Environmental Sustainability (CC4E), Tree Committee, JTN Bee Pollinator group, JTN Bike Path Committee, Clean Ocean Access, Save the Bay, RI Audubon, etc.) to display information about their organization and how it is helping the environment (focusing mainly on Jamestown).
- D) **Cross-Jamestown Collaboration:** The JCC will use the Environmental Earth Day fair to connect and discuss kickstarting community-wide collaborations with the other JTN environmental groups and then try to coordinate a meeting with town council members and the other environmental groups working across Jamestown as soon as possible to discuss setting up a website supported by the Town. Education outreach initiatives could include water conservation, eco-friendly yard care, feeding wildlife, invasive plant control, dog waste/watershed protection; stormwater protection; coastal resiliency; community composting, etc.
- E) **Harbor Management Commission-** No new updates- HMC meeting tomorrow (Wednesday, 4/12/23).

F) **Tree Committee**- Barbara Lundy reports that the Tree Committee is very active planning for their participation for the Earth Day Environmental Fair, and replanting/replenishing the JTN Tree nursery at the Community farm.

G) **Gould Island Restoration**- no new updates

I) **Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee**- no new updates- A. Kuhn-Hines will email Bob Plain and Quaker Case about notifying-emailing-updating Affordable Housing committee information to Susan Shim-Gorelick.

J) **Jamestown Bike Path Committee**-planning to develop maps for potential bike path linkages around town and the island. They will be participating at the Earth Day Fair.

A) NEW BUSINESS

A) The next JCC meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

B) ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn –**8:25 PM** –**Motion to adjourn Joyce Antoniello 1st, Barbara Lundy 2nd, all in favor-motion passed**

Respectfully submitted by Anne Kuhn-Hines