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**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Minutes of the September 14, 2016 Meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission  
*Approved: 10/12/2016*

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Cain called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with roll call:

Present:

William Harsch, Vice-Chairman  
Bruce Dickinson, Commissioner  
Clifford Kurz, Commissioner  
Wayne Banks, Commissioner  
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner

Absent:

Joseph McGrady, Commissioner  
David Cain, Chairman

Also in attendance:

Chief Edward Mello, Executive Director  
Mark Campbell, Harbormaster  
George Souza, Conservation Commission Liaison  
Kim Devlin, Harbor Clerk

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**A. Wednesday, August 10, 2016**

Commissioner Banks moved to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2016 Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting, Commissioner Wurzbacher seconded. So voted; (5 ayes, 0 nays).

**III. OPEN FORUM**

**A. Scheduled Requests to Address**

No Scheduled requests to address.

**B. Non-scheduled Requests to Address**

No Non-Scheduled requests to address.

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MELLO'S REPORT**

Executive Director Chief Mello reported that he met with Bruce (Dickinson), Mike Gray, Mark Campbell and consultants from the RT Group to talk about replacing the pilings at West Ferry. The project will go out to bid, with an alternative option to replace the stairs at the West Ferry out hauls.

Also at West Ferry, when the touch and go docks are pulled there is a plan to move the outer stanchion to the inside.

**V. HARBORMASTER REPORT**

Harbormaster Campbell reported that he has been busy with the Save the Bay swim, Fools' Rules regatta, and the boat that was wrecked on Beavertail. Tropical Storm Hermine posed a challenge, as there were seven boats that went aground.

Harbormaster Campbell reported that there are 33 aids to navigation in the water and two were removed due to damage and provided an update on the Harbormaster vessels.

Harbormaster Campbell reported that the Assistant Harbormaster has finished for the season and that the Harbor Office has sent a number of certified letters to permit holders for not using their mooring this season.

Executive Director Chief Mello asked Harbormaster Campbell to put together a ride along plan to make officers familiar with the vessel, in case there is an emergency on Dutch Island, we have worked through a draft of a protocol for responding. We want to make sure we have means to get out there when all other outlets (USCG, DEM, etc.) are unavailable.

A discussion ensued on the possibility of Dutch Island opening up to public access.

## **VI. MARINE DEVELOPMENT FUND BUDGET**

### **A. 2015/2016 MDF YTD Budget**

The Marine Development Fund budget was not available.

## **VII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Budget**

Commissioner Kurz had nothing to report.

### **B. Facilities**

Commissioner Dickinson had nothing to report.

### **C. Mooring Implementation**

Chairman Cain was not in attendance.

### **D. Traffic Committee**

Chairman Cain was not in attendance.

## **VIII. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **A. Conservation Commission Liaison**

Conservation Commission Liaison Souza had nothing to report.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

## **X. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. James Thompson – Letter to the Jamestown Harbor Commission requesting a waiver of late fees; 8/15/2016

### **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Appeal of mooring permit renewal late fees – James Thompson**

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that Mr. Thompson failed to renew his mooring permit by May 15 and he is asking for the Jamestown Harbor Commission to consider a waiver of the \$200 in late fees.

Mr. James Thompson stated that on May 1 he contacted Shoreline Diving to inspect his mooring and he did not hear back from him until June 10. When Shoreline went to inspect his mooring Mr. Thompson already had his boat on the mooring so they couldn't do the inspection. Mr. Thompson then called Sam (Paterson) and he said he would do the inspection. Mr. Thompson stated that he called Sam on August 1, since he did not hear from him and Sam said he didn't know he was contracted to do the inspection.

Mr. Thompson stated he feels that he shouldn't have to pay penalty because they (the inspectors he contacted) are on the town approved mooring inspector list.

Commissioner Wurzbacher asked Mr. Thompson if he had any communication with the inspectors between June 10 and August 10. Mr. Thompson responded that he did not have any communication with the inspectors during that time frame.

The Jamestown Harbor Commission discussed Mr. Thompson's request.

Commissioner Wurzbacher moved to uphold the late fees; Commissioner Banks seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

### **B. Swimming off of Town Docks**

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that, if the Harbor commission would like to suggest a change, contacting the Town Council would be the first step. There is a resolution against swimming from town docks and it is prohibited in the Harbor Management Ordinance.

A discussion on swimming from town docks ensued.

Executive Director Chief Mello suggested tabling the matter until he can provide the necessary documents and history on the matter.

### **C. Information required for permit holders**

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he is trying to determine if there is a way to collect additional information from permit holders. The Harbor Management Ordinance identifies what type of information is required and a cell phone number is not. We would like to have the cell phone number of permit holders so we can push out emergency messages to boat owners.

We would also like to collect insurance information so we can work directly with the insurance company in case there is an issue contacting permit holders when, for example, their boat runs aground. During the last storm we were close to removing a vessel on our own due to lack of communication from the boat owner. The goal is to protect the town financially and environmentally and we want to do the best we can to notify boat owners of events and have a trail of communication to fall back on.

Vice-Chairman Harsch requested that Executive Director Chief Mello proceed with the tasks of swimming from town dock and collecting information from permit holders.

### **D. Conanicut Yacht Club – additional mooring permits request**

Item 11d is continued until the next meeting.

## **XII. OPEN FORUM – CONTINUED**

Commissioner Wurzbacher asked Executive Director Chief Mello to comment on the Champlin Way boat ramp.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that, as of now, things will proceed as status quo.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Dickinson moved to adjourn at 8:10 PM, Vice-Chairman Harsch seconded. So voted; (5 ayes, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Devlin  
Jamestown Harbor Clerk