



Jamestown Harbor Office
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**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Minutes of the August 9, 2017 Meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission
Approved: 10/11/2017

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Harsch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with roll call:

Present:

William Harsch, Vice-Chairman
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner
Clifford Kurz, Commissioner
James Heagney, Commissioner
Joseph McGrady, Commissioner
Wayne Banks, Commissioner

Absent:

David Cain, Chairman

Also in attendance:

Chief Mello, Executive Director
Mark Campbell, Harbormaster
Kim Devlin, Harbor Clerk

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Wurzbacher moved to accept the minutes of the Wednesday, June 12, 2017 Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting, Commissioner McGrady seconded. So voted; (5 ayes, 0 nays).

(7:03 Commissioner Kurz arrives.)

III. OPEN FORUM

A. Scheduled Requests to Address

1. Christine Ariel – Buoys at Mackerel Cove and Head's Beach- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Christine Ariel, 61 Steamboat Street, addressed the Jamestown Harbor Commission regarding the placement of swim buoys at Mackerel Cove and Head's Beach, stating that the placement of the buoys is different this year than in the past, and that her hands touch the sand when swimming by the buoys at Mackerel Cove at low tide. Ms. Ariel also stated that when she is swimming she smells gas and fumes from boats, and that she does not want any more boating activity in Type 1 waters and that the town should be concerned with conservation, not increasing boating.

Ms. Ariel stated that at Head's Beach the buoys are in a different location this year that creates a channel for kayakers to launch their vessels from, instead of using the boat ramp.

Commissioner McGrady asked Ms. Ariel how many days a week she swims; Ms. Ariel responded four to five days a week.

Commissioner McGrady stated that if she is smelling or tasting gas there might be a specific boat that is leaking gas and that is an emergency that should be reported to the police or DEM, and asked Ms. Ariel how often she is smelling or tasting

gas while swimming.

Commissioner Banks asked Ms. Ariel if she tasted gas or fumes; Ms. Ariel responded that it was both.

Ms. Ariel stated that she only tasted gas one time last summer while swimming in Mackerel Cove, but that she smells fumes from boats regularly.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Ariel stated that she has had conversations with the Town Administrator and with the Parks and Recreation Director and the Harbormaster about this issue, and that she is an open swimmer and doesn't want to be limited. Ms. Ariel stated that she outlined in her letter what she would like the town to do.

B. Non-scheduled Requests to Address- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

There were no Non-scheduled requests to address.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MELLO'S REPORT- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello reported that there has been discussion about the West Ferry outhaul stairs and that we have a new design for them and a contractor will construct them for us and the Public Works department will install them on the bulkhead. We are going to start with two as a prototype to see how they hold up.

V. HARBORMASTER REPORT- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Harbormaster Campbell reported that we are moving down the wait lists and assigning moorings. Compliance is good on the kayak racks and that Head's Beach and Maple Avenue are maxed out but we still have some room at Ft. Getty and East Ferry. It may look like there are empty spots, whether they have their boat there or not, they have paid for the spot and we have to honor that.

Vice-Chairman Harsch stated that there have been some complaints about aquaculture around the island and asked if Executive Director Chief Mello had any comments.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that it is at the Town Council level and that it is the visual aspect that is the issue. Aquaculture permits are issued by CRMC not the town and the farmers are trying to reach maximum capacity.

Vice-Chairman Harsch asked if the aquaculture farms are interfering with boating.

Harbormaster Campbell responded no, aquaculture is not interfering with boating.

VI. MARINE DEVELOPMENT FUND BUDGET

A. 2016/2017 MDF YTD Budget- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello reported that we are not prepared to look back on the last fiscal year yet, but as soon as it is prepared we will bring it back to you.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Budget- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Kurz had nothing to report.

B. Facilities- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Wurzbacher and Commissioner Banks had nothing to report.

Executive Director Chief Mello asked if Commissioner Wurzbacher and Commissioner Banks could meet sometime this week to discuss the West Ferry outhaul stair project.

C. Mooring Implementation- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Cain had nothing to report.

D. Traffic Committee- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Cain had nothing to report.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Conservation Commission Liaison- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Conservation Commission Liaison Souza was not in attendance.

IX. OLD BUSINESS- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

There were no Old Business items to discuss.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Christine Ariel; 7/25/2017 - Buoys at Mackerel Cove and Head's Beach; Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Vice-Chairman Harsch moved to accept the correspondence items; Commissioner McGrady seconded. So voted; 6 ayes, 0 nays. So voted; 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Executive Director Chief Mello responded to Christine Ariel's complaint about the buoy placement at Mackerel Cove and Head's Beach by stating that the responsibility of the Jamestown Harbor Commission and the Harbor Department for the buoys is in the maintenance and reporting the placement to the USCG. The buoys are on station, as we have checked multiple times and they are in the location that is registered to the USCG, as verified by the USCG.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that if the recreation department feels that they can manage a larger swim area that is up to them, but the number of moorings in Mackerel Cove has not changed and they are all riparian moorings. The Harbor Management Ordinance states that moorings should not be located within conservations areas, and the intent is that mooring areas should not be in conservation areas, and that with the approval of the harbormaster, riparian moorings may be placed in conservation zones.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that we will check again to make sure the buoys are on station.

Commissioner Heagney stated that he keeps a dinghy and a boat on a mooring at Head's Beach and that the parking area by the boat ramp fills up with cars so it makes it difficult to use the boat ramp to launch kayaks and dinghies.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that there have been discussions on how to better manage that area.

Vice-Chairman Harsch asked if there was a way to address the channel at Head's Beach.

Christine Ariel drew a diagram of the buoy placement for the Jamestown Harbor Commission.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated he will look in to the buoy placement at Head's Beach.

A discussion on the swim buoys at Mackerel Cove ensued.

XI. NEW BUSINESS- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

There were no New Business items to discuss.

XII. OPEN FORUM – CONTINUED- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

There were no Continued Open Forum discussions.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Banks moved to adjourn at 8:03 PM, Commissioner Heagney seconded. So voted; (6 ayes, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Devlin
Jamestown Harbor Clerk