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**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Minutes of the November 13, 2019 Meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission
Approved: 12/11/2019

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Harsch called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM with roll call:

Present:

William Harsch, Chairman
Wayne Banks, Vice-Chairman
Steven Bois, Commissioner
Eric Lexow, Commissioner

Absent:

James Heagney, Commissioner
Michael Junge, Commissioner
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner

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 - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

A. Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Commissioner Lexow moved to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2019 Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting; Commissioner Bois seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

III. OPEN FORUM

A. Scheduled Requests to Address

1. Mr. William Straser; Re: Request to have appeal placed on the December agenda - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Mr. Straser was not in attendance.

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 had nothing to report.

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

Harbormaster Campbell reported that his season is over and that the boats are out and will be shrinkwrapped this Friday.

VI. MARINE DEVELOPMENT FUND BUDGET

A. 2018/2019

MDF YTD Budget- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello stated the budget is not available at this time.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Heagney was not in attendance.

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

Vice-Chairman Banks had nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Banks had nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Junge was not in attendance.

E. Gould Island Restoration Committee - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Bois reported that the next meeting will be in the early spring.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

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

Conservation Commission Liaison Souza had nothing to report, other than stating the Conservation Commission is watching what happens with the Jamestown Boat Yard expansion.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Outhaul fees at Ft. Getty and West Ferry – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello reminded the Jamestown Harbor Commission that they have approved replacing the West Ferry outhaul stairs in the spring, with an estimated cost of \$45,000.

Executive Director Chief Mello presented the Jamestown Harbor Commission with a slideshow prepared by Vice-Chairman Banks. Vice-Chairman Banks visited all of the locations where there are outhauls, commercial and Town owned, in Jamestown and took pictures to present to the Jamestown Harbor Commission, along with the respective pricing to rent an outhaul at each facility.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that it is important for the Jamestown Harbor Commission to look at the benefits and drawbacks to each location and not to compare only the fees being charged.

Executive Director Chief Mello also stated that the outhauls are easy to manage and do not require much time for staff to focus on.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that in the last 26 years we have spent approximately \$150,000 repairing the outhauls.

Commissioner Bois asked about the number of permits at each location and the number of people on the wait list.

Harbor Clerk Devlin stated that there are 14 people on the wait list at Ft. Getty with about a 5 year wait time, and 21 people on the wait list at West Ferry with about a 20 year wait time.

Vice-Chairman Banks stated that we are not charging enough and that West Ferry outhauls have the best access in town; he would like to see the fees go up.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that someone has also proposed an option to split the season for recreational users that only use their outhaul in the summer season, to allow commercial boats to rent the outhaul in the off season.

Vice-Chairman Banks stated that there is not a better, more protected and easier to access location than at West Ferry and that he would like to see a 50% rate increase at West Ferry.

Executive Director Chief Mello suggested introducing the rate change incrementally.

Commissioner Bois moved to have Executive Director Chief Mello provide additional information; Chairman Harsch seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Bucky Brennan addressed the Jamestown Harbor Commission stating that commercial outhauls have security and the Town outhauls do not and that they are not the same type of service, as the commercial entities provide the tackle. He also stated

that he does agree that West Ferry and Ft. Getty are not the same.

Carol Cronin stated that she is happy that the Town is investing in the infrastructure at the West Ferry out hauls, but at West Ferry you are bringing your boat against rocks and getting your feet wet to access the boat.

Hugh Kelly addressed the Jamestown Harbor Commission stating that there may be out hauls at the commercial places that are not rented and we don't know what the occupancy is and that also there may be a difference in depth at those locations.

Linda Jamison stated that it is easier to get everyone in the boat at Getty than it is at West Ferry and there used to be parking for out hauls at West Ferry and now there is not.

James Blanton stated that he has been on an out haul at West Ferry for 10 years and that there are people with cabins on their boats that can't get under the cable at West Ferry so they would rather be at Ft. Getty.

B. Meeting Time – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Bois moved to change the meeting time to 6PM, Commissioner Lexow seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020/2021 Operating Budget – Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Harsch moved to approve the 2020/2021 operating budget, Vice-Chairman Banks seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

B. 2020/2021 Long Range Infrastructure Plan– Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Bois moved to approve the 2020/2021 Long Range Infrastructure Plan, Vice-Chairman Banks seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

C. Harbor Permit Rates – Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Vice-Chairman Banks moved to continue this item, Commissioner Bois seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

D. Mooring Renewal Process – Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello presented a revised renewal process to the Jamestown Harbor Commission. Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the Harbor Management Ordinance dictates how we manage permit renewals and that this change will require an ordinance change by the Town Council. It will not be a simple process and we are asking to change the procedure for the 2021 season.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that, currently, the renewal process spans over 10 months. The new concept will shorten that time frame and also push back the timing to prohibit moorings from being unused all season with little to no recourse. There is a wait list of 400 people and it is unfair to them that there are moorings not being used and it being too late in the season to reissue those moorings to someone on the wait list.

Vice-Chairman Banks stated that he likes the concept but is concerned about the narrow timeframe.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that we could back up the initial date.

Vice-Chairman Banks moved to approve the concept with an earlier start date; Chairman Harsch seconded. So voted; 3 ayes, 1 nays (Lexow).

E. Jamestown Boat Yard Expansion – Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that there are 2 documents in the packet regarding the Jamestown Boat Yard expansion. The first document is the CRMC water classification for the area around Jamestown Boat Yard and the Dumplings swim area. CRMC classifies the area as "High Intensity Boating."

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the second map was prepared by Harbor staff and shows the proposed marina expansion, to scale, along with the swim area. The Jamestown Boat Yard commercial moorings are marked with a green dot and the private moorings are marked with a red dot.

Chairman Harsch asked Executive Director Chief Mello if the Jamestown Harbor Commission needs to take action.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that it would be up to the Jamestown Harbor Commission if they take action or not, but it is not required and, as previously stated, not within the purview of the Jamestown Harbor Commission.

Chairman Harsch asked Conservation Commission Liaison Souza what the Conservation Commission is planning to do.

Conservation Commission Liaison Souza stated that the Conservation Commission already sent a letter directly to CRMC and that there may be some modifications to the plan, and the Conservation Commission is waiting to see what the new plan looks like.

Chairman Harsch asked Harbormaster Campbell if he thought there would be any hazards to navigation.

Harbormaster Campbell stated that in his opinion, the expansion will not cause or be a hazard to navigation.

Commissioner Bois moved to provide an opinion to the Town Council on this project, whether we agree or do not agree.

Vice-Chairman Banks stated that he agrees with Commissioner Bois but would like to wait and see what the Conservation Commission does and to follow their lead on this.

Commissioner Lexow seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

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

Dave Pritchard stated that he has been on the outhauls at Ft. Getty for about 20 years and that the only facilities there are the concrete block and the wire. There is no maintenance at the Ft. Getty outhauls except for the pilings.

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

Chairman Harsch moved to adjourn at 8:34 PM; Commissioner Bois seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Devlin
Jamestown Harbor Clerk