



TOWN OF JAMESTOWN HARBOR COMMISSION

Minutes of the September 8, 2021 Meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission
Approved:

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission was held Wednesday, September 8, 2021
At the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown RI 02835.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Banks called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM with roll call:

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman
Michael Junge, Vice-Chairman
Eric Lexow, Commissioner (5:07PM)
Steven Bois, Commissioner
Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner
Richard Raynes, Commissioner

Also in attendance:

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

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

A. Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Vice-Chairman Banks moved to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2021 Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting; Vice-Chairman Junge seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays. (McCarthy and Lexow)

III. OPEN FORUM

A. Scheduled Requests to Address

There were no scheduled requests to address.

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, for the first time, directly following the adjournment of the Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting we will be sharing space with CRMC as the host of a Preliminary Determination meeting for a proposed aquaculture project. This is an introduction to the process only, and it is not a part of the Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting, although they will be listed on the Jamestown Harbor Commission agenda as a footnote. The Preliminary Determination meeting will be hosted by Ben Goetsch the CRMC Aquaculture Specialist.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that this is an attempt to be more transparent with proposed projects in the waters around Jamestown. The CRMC Preliminary Determination meetings will be advertised in the Jamestown Press the Thursday prior to the Preliminary Determination meetings, when they arise.

V. HARBORMASTER REPORT

Harbormaster Skalubinski reported that, at the direction of Executive Director Chief Mello, we have developed a plan for assessing all of the Town Harbor related assets for storm damage. Prior to the storm an email was sent to all permit holders advising them of the storm and to secure their vessels. Harbormaster Skalubinski thanked Harbormaster Campbell for cutting his vacation short to assist with storm preparations.

(Commissioner Bois arrives 5:07PM.)

Harbormaster Skalubinski stated that there were some pretty large vessels that broke free during the storm and that the majority were under the care of Conanicut Marine.

Harbormaster Skalubinski reported that he is stepping up enforcement on anchored vessels and making sure they are registered on the anchoring website that we have set up. Harbormaster Skalubinski stated that one vessel broke free from anchor in Potter's Cove during the storm and that vessel was owned by Dream Yacht Charters. That vessel was not registered with the Town and Harbormaster Skalubinski had no idea who was on board and if everyone was safe. We had no contact information for the vessel and they were also in violation of USCG anchoring regulations as the vessel did not have anchoring lights on.

Harbormaster Skalubinski reported that he had been trying to contact someone from Dream Yacht Charters and he was unable to find the person responsible. After many attempts he finally found the responsible party in his office and instructed the individual to have the anchored vessels removed from Potter's Cove.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the vessels anchored in Potter's Cove seemed to be a part of Dream Yacht Charters business model and that the vessels were not seeking shelter from the storm. There have been a number of vessels owned by Dream Yacht Charters that have been anchored in Potter's Cove for well over the three day anchoring limit because they do not have anywhere to moor or dock their vessels and Dream Yacht Charters have been running their business from anchor.

VI. MARINE DEVELOPMENT FUND BUDGET

A. 2020/2021

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

The budget was not available for review.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Lexow reported that the budget process for the next fiscal year will begin next month.

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

Commissioner Wurzbacher and Vice-Chairman Banks had nothing to report.

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

Vice-Chairman Banks had nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Junge had nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Bois reported that there is an advisory board meeting on September 23rd at 6PM and the meeting will be hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

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

Conservation Commission Liaison Souza had nothing to report.

B. Town Council Liaison Report - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Town Council Liaison White was absent.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Commissioner Wurzbacher and Commissioner McCarthy recused themselves from the Head's Beach Mooring Area agenda items.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Charlotte Zarlengo – August 11, 2021 Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting; 8/16/2021 - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Banks moved to accept the Correspondence; Vice-Chairman Junge seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Executive Director Chief Mello's Report on Head's Beach - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the report in the meeting packets is a response to Charlotte Zarlengo's request for information regarding Head's Beach and the Mooring Area. Executive Director Chief Mello stated that we worked extensively to gather this information and that it was extremely time consuming.

Executive Director Chief Mello first addressed the parking concerns raised by Mrs. Zarlengo and stated that the main parking area parallel to Seaside Drive is a resident only parking area, any resident of the Town is allowed to park in that lot with a resident recreation parking sticker. The lot on the North side of the beach, next to the boat launch access, is not limited to resident parking and anyone may park in that location as long as they do not block the road or park under a 'No Parking' sign.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that in 2020 there were 197 parking tickets issued at Head's Beach and in 2021 72 parking tickets were issued. Executive Director Chief Mello stated that in 2020, due to Covid, we saw a major increase in the number of parking tickets issued because of the State Beach closures people did not care if they received a parking ticket and were willing to pay the fine in order to spend time at the beach.

A discussion on parking and tickets ensued.

Vice-Chairman Junge asked if we could increase the number of kayak racks at Head's Beach.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that we would have to apply for a construction assent from CRMC. Executive Director Chief Mello stated that all beach permit locations have a wait list and that we are actively trying to find better ways to enforce the use of the kayak racks.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that, prior to 2003, the waters adjacent to Head's Beach were occupied by moorings which were exclusive to residents who lived within some proximity to Head's Beach. In 2003 during a work session between the Town Council and the Jamestown Harbor Commission, it was brought to the attention of the Town by CRMC that those moorings were classified by the Town in a way that the State does not endorse as it excluded the general public from applying for a mooring in that area.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the defined mooring area at Head's Beach appears in a draft of the Harbor Management Ordinance dated March 8, 2007. In November of 2007 the Jamestown Harbor Commission was addressed by Mrs. Zarlengo detailing her concerns and objections to the creation of a mooring area at Head's Beach.

Executive Director Chief Mello reported that in 2009 the Jamestown Harbor Commission was briefed by the Town Solicitor and advised to move forward with creating the mooring area at Head's Beach. Mrs. Zarlengo expressed her opposition to naming Head's Beach a mooring area to the Jamestown Harbor Commission at this meeting. In 2009 the Jamestown Harbor Commission adopted the Harbor Management Ordinance that includes the Head's Beach Mooring Area. In December of 2011 the Town Council approved the Harbor Management Ordinance and Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan with the Head's Beach Mooring Area included. In April of 2013 the CRMC issued an interim approval of the Harbor Management Ordinance and Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that in 2018 the plan and ordinance went through a review and adoption. During the process, which included the creation of about 20 maps of mooring areas where the Town had issued moorings at locations that were not approved mooring areas, one of the issues CRMC asked us to address was the conflict of having swim buoys in the Head's Beach Mooring Area. In order to comply, the southeast corner was adjusted north to exclude the swim buoys from the mooring area. The Jamestown Harbor Commission and the Town Council both held Public Hearings before the Harbor Management Ordinance and Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan were approved. The Public Hearings were advertised in the Jamestown Press, as required by State legislature.

Vice-Chairman Junge asked if there was anything limiting increasing the number of moorings in the Head's Beach Mooring Area, as it seems like there is plenty of room to increase the number of moorings there, especially since there are so many people on the wait lists.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that, yes, there are limiting factors such as parking and shoreside facilities. We cannot just add more moorings and hope for the best. Executive Director Chief Mello presented the example of Cranston Cove, where there is no parking and no public access. Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the Jamestown Harbor Commission cannot make that decision on their own, it would require an ordinance revision and the Town Council and CRMC would have to approve the change. Executive Director Chief Mello suggested waiting until we are closer to the end of the five year approval to consider making any changes.

Vice-Chairman Junge suggested that we conduct a study to determine the factors involved in setting the number of moorings at each location so we have the answers to why there are a certain number of moorings at each location.

Chairman Banks stated that beach permit space is also a limiting factor, and that he will meet with staff as the Mooring Implementation point person to discuss the topic.

Charlotte Zarlengo addressed the Jamestown Harbor Commission by stating that, throughout the history that Executive

Director Chief Mello just went through, the Jamestown Shores Association has opposed the mooring area. Mrs. Zarlengo stated that Head's Beach was historically a swimming beach and that over the years the number and size of the boats moored there have increased and she hopes that the commission will keep in mind the water quality for the people that use the beach for swimming. Mrs. Zarlengo stated that the last boat she saw come out of the water had New York plates on the vehicle and trailer, and since 2003 the Shores Association has objected to what is going on there and that no one has listened and it's time you start listening.

Commissioner Bois stated that, just to be clear, the number of moorings has not increased. The transitional boats that come in for the day or the night is not controlled by the Jamestown Harbor Commission and he asked Mrs. Zarlengo what data she is referring to that shows the number of moorings have increased, because the data that Executive Director Chief Mello provided shows that the number of moorings have not increased.

Mrs. Zarlengo stated that the data she is looking out her window and that is the data she is using.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that in 2019 and 2020 there were 10 mooring permits issued, but that does not mean there was always a boat on the mooring. We have gone to great lengths to ensure the moorings are being used and what has happened over the years is that moorings that were not being used have forfeited those moorings and the moorings have been issued to people who want to use their moorings.

Commissioner Bois stated that as we increase our enforcement of mooring use the perception of the number of moorings increasing will continue, because moorings that had previously gone unused will now be occupied. Even though the mooring was there it did not have a vessel on it so it seemed like there were less moorings.

Vice-Chairman Junge asked if we can start including the number of people on the waiting list in the meeting minutes so we have a record of that going forward, if someone asks us for an extension we will have an idea of how many people are waiting for a permit.

A. Signage at the new touch and go dock on the south side of the Wood Pile Pier - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Wurzbacher and Commissioner McCarthy rejoin the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Junge stated that he does not think it is a good idea to send the letter or bring it up as he does not see any benefit to sending it.

Chairman Banks stated that he does not have a problem with the sign but the issue is that there is no signage stating that the Town dock is public not private.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the Jamestown Harbor Commission should take their time and be clear in their intentions.

Chairman Banks moved to add this as agenda item for next month, Vice-Chairman Junge seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays.

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

Commissioner Bois confirmed the Gould Island meeting will be held on September 23 and 6PM.

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

Chairman Banks moved to adjourn at 6:05 PM; Commissioner Bois seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Devlin
Jamestown Harbor Clerk