

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission.

Approved: *1/11/23*

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Wayne Banks called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman
Michael Junge, Vice-Chairman
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner
Eric Lexow, Commissioner
Steven Bois, Commissioner
Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner

Also in Attendance:

Chief Edward Mello, Executive Director
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk
Randy White, Town Council Liaison

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

A. Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Chairman Banks moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022 meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission and Vice-Chairman Junge seconded. So voted: 6 ayes, 0 nay.

B. Monday, November 28, 2022 (Joint Executive Session with Town Council)

Vice-Chairman Junge moved to accept the minutes of the Joint Executive Session meeting with the Town Council and Chairman Banks seconded. So voted: 6 ayes, 0 nay.

III. Open Forum

A. Scheduled Requests to Address

There were no scheduled requests to address.

B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address

There were no non-scheduled requests to address.

IV. Executive Director's Report – Chief Mello

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the two harbormaster boats have been shrink-wrapped and are stored for the season. He has also gotten some replies regarding potential changes to the Harbor Management Guidebook. There was some discussion and the guidebook will be placed on January's agenda.

V. Harbormaster's Report – G. Skalubinski

Harbormaster Skalubinski was not present.

VI. Year-to-Date Financial Report – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello had nothing to report.

VII. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Budget – E. Lexow – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Lexow had nothing to report.

B. Facilities – W. Banks and D. Wurzbacher – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Commissioner Wurzbacher had nothing to report.

C. Mooring Implementation – W. Banks – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Banks had nothing to report.

D. Gould Island Restoration – W. Banks and S. Bois – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Banks stated that he and Commissioner Bois were asked to approach the Gould Island Restoration Committee chair to ask if he would be willing to take on developing a recreation/use plan for Dutch Island as well, but he declined. Commissioner Bois stated that the chairman declined because he felt it would be a distraction and complicate the efforts to restore Gould Island. There was some discussion about approaching the Town Council to put

together a working group for Dutch Island and develop a vision of what the uses for Dutch Island could be. It will be put on the agenda for discussion at January's meeting.

VIII. Liaison Reports

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

Conservation Commission liaison Leo Orsi was not present.

B. Town Council – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Town Council Liaison Randy White had nothing to report.

IX. Old Business

A. Infrastructure needs to be addressed by Beta Group – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Arek Galle from Beta Group gave a presentation of some conceptual designs for the repair of the Ft. Getty pier. The designs do not change any of the dimensions of the pier but are more cosmetic in nature to improve the aesthetics of the pier and make it more accessible to the public. Improvements could include building out the entrance to the pier to the full width of the deck, installing a floating dock with a gangway, railings around the edge of the pier, shade structures and seating for the public, and a fenced-off area for the commercial fishermen and aqua farmers to store their equipment. Some discussion ensued, with Chairman Banks making the point that improvements should not interfere with any of the outhauls, pier permits, or commercial fishing operations. There was also discussion of whether the underlying structure and pilings can support the improvements to the pier. Commissioner Bois made a motion to authorize an engineering study of the Ft. Getty pier and Vice-Chairman Junge seconded. So voted: 6 ayes, 0 nay.

X. Correspondence

A. Email from Lorrie Bergeron regarding Maple Avenue kayak racks-Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Banks moved to accept Ms. Bergeron's letter into correspondence and Vice-Chairman Junge seconded. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

Discussion ensued regarding parking at Maple Avenue. Executive Director Chief Mello stated that whatever parking is there cannot be expanded because the dirt road goes through the marsh. There are no parking restrictions by ordinance at the end of Maple Avenue. The

number of permits distributed to kayakers has increased slightly but the dinghy racks were under-utilized so more room was created for kayaks.

Chairman Banks had a question under Old Business about when items will be discussed with the goal of building a long-term capital budget. Some discussion ensued about the process of building a capital plan and the budget to go along with it. The Facilities sub-committee could take the lead in this. This item will be placed on the agenda for January.

XI. New Business

A. Qualified Mooring Inspector Applications – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that there is one new applicant this year, Fathom Resources. They were a subcontractor last year for TPG Conanicut and Dutch Harbor marinas and will continue to fulfill that role for them, but they also wish to be an independent mooring inspector. Some discussion ensued. Vice-Chairman Junge moved to approve the list of applicants for qualified mooring inspectors and Chairman Banks seconded. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

B. Sunset Oyster Farms Upweller Request – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

Joseph Pinheiro and his father, Antonio Pinheiro, operate Sunset Oyster Farms and are seeking a recommendation by the Harbor Commission to the Town Council for approval to continue their operations at the Ft. Getty pier. Executive Director Chief Mello stated that there haven't been any problems with their operations at Ft. Getty this year. Vice-Chairman Junge moved to recommend approval of Sunset Oyster Farms continuing operation for one year to the Town Council. Commissioner Wurzbacher commented that the oyster farm operation at Ft. Getty pier should not inhibit discussions of what to do with the design and rebuild of the pier. Commissioner Wurzbacher seconded Vice-Chairman Junge's motion. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

XII. Open Forum – Continued (if necessary) – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote

There were no comments.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Junge to move into Executive Session with a second by Chairman Banks. So voted: Chairman Banks, Aye; Vice-Chairman Junge, Aye; Commissioner Wurzbacher, Aye; Commissioner Lexow, Aye; Commissioner Bois, Aye; Commissioner McCarthy, Aye.

XIII. Executive Session

The Harbor Commission may seek to enter into Executive Session for review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote on the following:

A. Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2)&(5) East Ferry Use: Potential Lease Agreement with Conanicut Marine Services, Inc.

XIV. Adjournment of Executive Session

A motion was made by Chairman Banks to seal the minutes and adjourn from Executive Session with a second by Vice-Chairman Junge. Vote: Chairman Banks, Aye; Vice-Chairman Junge, Aye; Commissioner Wurzbacher, Aye; Commissioner Lexow, Aye; Commissioner Bois, Aye; Commissioner McCarthy, Aye.

It was announced that no votes were taken.

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Junge moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission with a second by Chairman Banks. So voted: 6 ayes, 0 nay.

Attest,



Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk