

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission.

Approved: 3/8/23

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 5:00 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 5:00.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman  
Michael Junge, Vice-Chairman  
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner  
Eric Lexow, Commissioner  
Steven Bois, Commissioner  
Sue Romano, Commissioner

Absent:

Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner

Also in Attendance:

Chief Edward Mello, Executive Director  
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk

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

**A. Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

Chairman Banks moved to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission and Commissioner Bois 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**

Charlotte Zarlengo of Seaside Drive requested the Harbor Commission protect Head's Beach cove as the only swimming area on the north end of the island in addition to being a fish

nursery and fishery. Mrs. Zarlengo feels some of the members of the Harbor Commission are only interested in placing as many moorings around the island as they possibly can, with the focus being on Head's Beach year after year. Mrs. Zarlengo stated there are now 14 moorings at Head's Beach and as a result, much of the eelgrass planted by the Conservation Commission has been destroyed. Fishing is an important activity that depends on these areas and they are rapidly disappearing around Jamestown. Mrs. Zarlengo asked the Harbor Commission not to place any more moorings at Head's Beach and to decrease the number that are already there through attrition.

#### **IV. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he has interviewed a number of great candidates for the Harbormaster position and is in the process making a determination for hiring in the coming days or week.

He also updated the Harbor Commission on the status of the CMS/Jamestown Ferry negotiations. There are some more Executive Session meetings scheduled with the Town Council to come to a resolution and Chief Mello hopes to have something to report by the March meeting.

Executive Director Chief Mello also welcomed Sue Romano, who is a new Harbor Commissioner.

#### **V. Harbormaster's Report**

There was no Harbormaster's report this month.

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

Executive Director Chief Mello had nothing to report.

#### **VII. Subcommittee 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**

Commissioners Banks and 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 and Commissioner Bois had nothing to report.

**VIII. Liaison Reports**

**A. Conservation Commission Liaison Report – L. Orsi – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

Conservation Commissioner Orsi was absent.

**B. Town Council Liaison Report – R. White – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

Town Councilor Randy White was absent.

**IX. Old Business**

**A. Development of Long-Term Capital Plan/Budget – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

There was more discussion regarding the development of a long-term capital plan. Some discussion ensued and it was decided that the Facilities Committee of Chairman Banks and Commissioner Wurzbacher, along with Commissioner Bois, will meet to come up with a list of harbor assets that need to be addressed in the next few years.

**B. 2024 Mooring Harbor Permit Rates – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

More discussion ensued regarding the potential increase of mooring and permit rates, which also ties into the development of a long-term capital plan. Commissioner Wurzbacher stated that he feels the rates need to increase but that any increase would be more palatable if the Harbor Commission has a list of projects to justify the rate increase. There was discussion of how Jamestown's rates compare to other waterfront communities with large mooring fields. Harbor Clerk Rich will research the rates of Bristol, Newport, North Kingstown, and Portsmouth and have the information for next month's meeting.

**X. Correspondence**

**A. Letter from KSP Law regarding Conanicut Marine Services/Commercial Moorings – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Banks moved to accept the correspondence from KSP Law and Vice-Chairman Junge seconded. So voted: 6 ayes, 0 nay.

## **XI. New Business**

### **A. Touch-and-Go Floats at East Ferry – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

Executive Director Chief Mello has been in discussion with TPG Marinas regarding the use of the wood pile pier in East Ferry and the possibility of reconfiguring it. When the permanent, concrete float was installed on the southwest side of the pier, the original plans called for a 120' float to run parallel to the pier on its south side. That would create more public access and allow the pump-out station to be moved from the outer touch-and-go docks on the northeastern end of the pier to the more protected southern side. Chief Mello is getting prices for the float and stated that the project could also be done in stages. Some discussion ensued but no decision was made.

### **B. Safe Harbor Jamestown Boatyard Qualified Mooring Inspector Application – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Banks asked for discussion on the application and there wasn't any. Chairman Banks made a motion to accept Safe Harbor Jamestown Boatyard's application and Vice-Chairman Junge seconded. So voted: 6 ayes, 0 nay.

### **C. Summary of 2023 Permit Renewals – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the final notices for mooring and permit renewals have gone out, to be followed shortly by forfeiture notices. Approximately 70 customers have not renewed and/or paid yet. Customers who receive forfeiture notices may appeal the forfeiture at the March Harbor Commission meeting. Some discussion ensued.

### **D. Additional Engineering at Ft. Getty – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the firm that originally completed the engineering study for the Ft. Getty pier twelve years ago is going to charge \$37,000.00 to update the study so that Beta Group can continue its analysis of the pier to come up with a design to improve it. Some discussion ensued about the structure and age of the pier, and the possibility of asking the Recreation Department contributing some funds, as the seasonal campers use the pier as well. Chief Mello is hoping to engage another engineering firm to get second quote.

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

None.

**XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Banks made a motion to adjourn with a second by Vice-Chairman Junge. So voted: 6 ayes, 0 nay, and the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Attest,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk