

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Minutes of the May 10, 2023 meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission.

Approved: 8/9/23

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of 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 p.m.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman  
Michael Junge, Vice-Chairman  
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner  
Eric Lexow, Commissioner  
Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner (Arrived at 5:08)  
Sue Romano, Commissioner

Also in Attendance:

Edward Mello, Executive Director  
Steve Bois, Harbormaster  
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk  
Randall White, Town Council Liaison  
Bob Laman, Conservation Commission Liaison

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote  
A. Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

There was discussion about Robert's Rules of Order and why the public discussion for the kelp farm proposal to CRMC was held during the April meeting. Commissioner Lexow moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 12, 2023 and Chairman Banks seconded. So voted: 5 aye, 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 – E. Mello**

Executive Director Mello stated this would most likely be his last meeting as Executive Director. After review of the applications with Chairman Wayne Banks and the former Harbormaster, Mark Campbell, and interviewing candidates with Wayne and Mark, he is going to recommend that the Town Council appoint Steven Bois to become the next Executive Director of the Harbor Commission. If the Town Council accepts Executive Director Mello's recommendation and appoints Mr. Bois, he would no longer be the harbormaster. There was some discussion as to who would fulfill that role, and most likely the two assistants would fulfill the harbormaster duties for 2023.

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

Harbormaster Bois stated that the docks and floats at both East and West Ferry have been repaired and have been installed, with the repairs totaling approximately \$4,500.00. Both boats are in the water, and the pumpouts at East and West Ferry have been commissioned for the season. He asked the commissioners to continue looking over the Harbor Management Plan and Ordinance to come up with any revisions, especially the roles and responsibilities of the harbor personnel. He also reported on the Ocean Race and that the boats have started to arrive in Newport, along with the schedule of events. Harbormaster Bois reported that the training of the assistant harbormasters is ongoing and that there will be weekend coverage on the water by them. Vice-Chairman Junge asked how the assistant harbormaster jobs were advertised and there was some discussion. The assistants were drawn from applicants for the Harbormaster position that was advertised in the Jamestown Press and on the Town's website during the winter. Vice-Chairman Junge also asked if the Executive Director could provide his report ahead of time so the commissioners have an idea of what will be discussed at the meeting. There was also discussion of listed contact information for the harbormaster at the waterfront, and if marine channels are monitored, which they are.

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

Executive Director Mello stated that the financial report was not available.

#### **VII. Sub-Committee Reports**

Chairman Banks discussed the reassignment of sub-committee members, but reassignment has to be an agenda item, so it will be added to the agenda for the June meeting.

**A. Budget – E. Lexow – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**  
Commissioner Lexow had nothing to report.

**B. Facilities – D. Wurzbacher and W. Banks – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**  
Chairman Banks and Commissioner Wurzbacher had nothing to report, although there are some items listed in New Business that fall under facilities.

**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 – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

Chairman Banks stated that Gould Island would be discussed later under New Business.

## **VIII. Liaison Reports**

**A. Conservation Commission – B. Laman – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

Commissioner Laman stated that Conservation will be planting seagrass at Mackerel Cove to replace what was washed away in last winter's storms.

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

Councilor White stated that the Town Council is in the process of interviewing three candidates for the vacant ~~Planning Commission Liaison~~ Harbor Commissioner position. Vice-Chairman Junge asked Councilor White if the Harbor Commission could be kept updated by the Town Council of negotiations between the Town and the ferry operators for the 2024 season because the Harbor Commissioners had not received any information about the deal for 2023.

## **IX. Old Business**

**A. Ft. Getty Engineering Study-Proposals – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

Two proposals, one from Tighe & Bond and one from the Beta Group, for engineering studies for the Ft. Getty pier were included in the packet. There was much discussion about priorities of repairs to the harbor infrastructure throughout Jamestown and the need for the Facilities sub-committee to meet with the Executive Director to determine what the most pressing projects are. It was pointed out that the cost to provide the engineering study by each vendor was exactly the same. After more discussion, it was decided that the current Facilities sub-committee, in conjunction with the Executive Director and with some input from Mike Gray, head of Public Works, will provide a recommendation about which engineering study to select at the next meeting.

## **X. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **XI. New Business**

**A. East Ferry Area Potential Improvements – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

There was discussion regarding potential improvements at East Ferry and it was decided that the Facilities sub-committee should prioritize which improvements are necessary. Executive Director Mello stated that Mike Gray has a plan to improve the old ferry landing area, the details of which will be presented at the June meeting. Vice-Chairman Junge asked when the

lease with TPG expires and, while acknowledging it was up to the Town Council to negotiate the lease, asked if the Harbor Commission could look over a proposed lease agreement to have more “eyes on” lease language to avoid any potential conflict in the future.

**B. Harbor Management Plan and Harbor Ordinance Updates – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

Harbormaster Bois stated the reading period for commissioners to look over the documents will extend through June, and then he will ask for input on any potential changes to the plan and the ordinance. All the stakeholders, including Public Works, the Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation, and the Town Planner have been engaged, and there was discussion about roles and responsibilities of the Harbor Commission and other town departments as they relate to the plan and the ordinance.

*Commissioner McCarthy had to leave at 5:50 p.m.*

**C. Gould and Dutch Island Management – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

Chairman Banks invited David Sommers, who is the Chairman of the Gould Island Ad Hoc Committee set up by the Town Council, and who is also on the Army Corps of Engineers Gould Island Restoration Advisory Board, to give a brief history of the proposal of transferring control of Gould Island by the ACOE to the Town for recreational use by the public. The Ad Hoc committee was set up by the Town on the basis that the federal government should be responsible to the Town and to the State to remediate Gould Island, chemically and physically, so that it would be able to be used by the Town and State for public recreation. The federal government does not feel it is responsible for cleaning up Gould Island and that RIDEM should be responsible. The ACOE is also looking for a plan from RIDEM that includes cost estimates, a benefits statement, and demonstrated public support beyond the Town of Jamestown. The island has been divided into three portions: the northern portion, which remains under control of the Navy; the middle portion, which will remain a wildlife sanctuary under the control of RIDEM; and the southern portion of approximately 17 acres, which would be available to the public. The Town would also like to add public recreation on Dutch Island to the discussion.

Mr. Sommers stated that this is beyond the scope of the Ad Hoc committee and had three proposals that he wants the Harbor Commission to consider:

1. Task the new Executive Director with taking on the role of advocate to the federal government, ACOE, and RIDEM for Gould and Dutch Islands;
2. For the Harbor Commission to take on the management and regulation of the development of public recreation on Gould and Dutch Islands;
3. Dissolve the Gould Island Ad Hoc Committee, and Mr. Sommers would be willing to be an adviser during the transition. There was some discussion.

Commissioner Romano made a motion to make the three recommendations outlined by David Sommers to the Town Council and Chairman Banks seconded. So voted: 5 ayes, 0 nay.

**D. Restoration/Recovery of Lost Touch and Go Space at East Ferry – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

There were two items contained in the meeting packet that addressed touch and go space along the south side of the wood pile pier. One was a drawing showing where a float would be positioned relative to the ADA compliant, concrete float, and the other is an estimate for two 30-foot wooden floats of approximately \$30,000.00. Another proposal that Executive Director Mello had received that was not included in the packet was for a 130-foot concrete float at a cost of \$200,000.00, not including permitting, engineering, or pilings. There was some discussion and there was consensus this should also be addressed by the Facilities sub-committee.


**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 moved to adjourn with a second by Vice-Chairman Junge. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay.

Attest,

  
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Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk