



JAMESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: J. Antonello, B. Lundy, S. Shim Gorelick, A. Kuhn-Hines, R. Shein, G. Souza
Absent: Leo Orsi

I. Roll Call and Call to Order: 6:35 pm

II. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes: June 14, 2022, **Motion to approve Meeting minutes 1st Susan Shim Gorelick, 2nd George Souza, all in favor - motion passed.**

III. OPEN FORUM:

- A) Eagle Scout Candidate, Alex Rutherford, presented his plans for an Eagle Scout project at Conanicut Island Sanctuary Trail. Alex gave a very detailed and comprehensive overview and description of his Eagle Scout project to construct two boardwalks: an 18' and 20' boardwalk. Alex's Eagle Scout project will also include demolition of the old boardwalk. Alex described the major parts of the project: the demolition of the existing boardwalk; and the construction of the two new boardwalks. Alex provided a very detailed and complete list of materials (composite decking, stainless steel screws, etc.) and tools (power saw, drills, safety goggles, carts and wagons), and a timeline for the completion of the project. Alex will provide pictures to the JCC when the project is completed.
- B) Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee representatives, Bob Plain and Quaker Case, gave a presentation and led a discussion on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as an environmentally friendly way to develop new housing within already developed areas, and potentially increase "affordable" housing in Jamestown. Jamestown currently allows ADUs for family members and for deed restricted affordable housing, but a new state law says towns can't discriminate on who can live in an ADU. The JTN affordable Housing Committee is proposing to the JTN Planning Commission that Jamestown adopt the expansion of the definition for Affordable Dwelling Units - beyond just for family members and deed-restricted affordable housing, but also for "market-rate" rentals. A new state law states that towns can't discriminate on who can live in an ADU: <https://www.rilegislature.gov/pressrelease/layouts/RIL.PressRelease.ListStructure/Forms/DisplayForm.aspx?List=c8baae31%2D3c10%2D431c%2D8dcd%2D9dbbe21ce3e9&ID=372716&Web=2bab1515%2D0dcc%2D4176%2Da2f8%2D8d4beebdf488#>. The JCC asked many questions regarding the economics of ADUs actually providing affordable housing options. The JCC was skeptical that expanding the definition of ADUs beyond family members in Jamestown would actually increase affordable housing options. Much of the discussion centered around the merits and potential for ADUs providing affordable housing in Jamestown, however, given the real estate prices in Jamestown the majority of JCC members believe that ADUs would not appreciably increase affordable housing options for Jamestown. Additionally, the JCC noted that this issue was outside of the JCC's purview-and acknowledged that the ADU issue remains under the Planning Commission's purview.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

- A) Blue Moon Perennial Farm invoice for \$699.50 for 92 one-gallon plants (bitter panicgrass: *Panicum amarum* and coastal bluestem: *Schizachyrum scoparium*) for Mackerel Cove dune restoration planting: **Motion to approve 1st George Souza, 2nd Barbara Lundy, all in favor - motion passed.**

V. CRMC, RIDEM AND TOWN OF JAMESTOWN ORDINANCE REVIEW

- A) CRMC public notice for a modification to an existing aquaculture site in Dutch Harbor: Adam Silkes d/b/a AT Marine (Aquaculture permit # 90) operating at this site since 2013- the modification is to add sugar kelp (*Laminaria saccharina*) to the existing species (oysters, mussels) grown at the site-requires no gear modification or additions-no visual impact. The sugar kelp will be grown from late Fall to late Spring. The JCC discussed how this kind of seaweed aquaculture is a “win-win” for the environment, the increasing demand for the seaweed market, and poses no conflicts with recreational and commercial activities since the aquaculture operation will only be active from late Fall to late Spring (and all gear removed in late Spring).

VI. Old Business & Committee Reports:

- A) No updates on Trail Grant applications for upgrading and adapting the Kit Wright trail, as there has been no new announcements from RI DEM or other granting sources with funding available. The JCC will keep searching for trail grant funding opportunities.

B) Rights of Way/Parks/Greenways & Public Access: Land Protection and Stewardship: Barbara Lundy continued monitoring and overseeing the Trail Map distribution boxes-verifying their locations, replenishing the boxes and depositing trail map sale money to Town Hall. Leo Orsi continues to take care of the Beavertail Trail Map box. Barbara reported that work is progressing with local Jamestown professional graphic designers with GIS skills (Mary Hutchinson and Darcy Magratten) about updating, designing, and producing a revised Conanicut Island Trails Guide (adding in new trails: Godena Farm, Parker Farm, etc.). Barbara reported that Jim Turenne and his son Ben Turenne have been provided tremendous support to the JCC, by using GPS to accurately geolocate all of the trails-this precise geographic information will be integrated into the GIS for the Trail Map redesign. Barbara also mentioned that the designers would eventually like to develop/design digital maps for an online presence as well as the revised paper maps. Barbara will continue communicating with these graphic designers to explore options and update the JCC as details develop.

C) The JCC continued discussing the coordination of future initiatives and community-wide collaborative coordination for environmental education with other JTN groups: e.g., Sustainable Jamestown, JAC, Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation, Taylor Point Restoration Association, JTN Friends of ROWs, etc. (Susan Shim Gorelick, JCC) <https://www.cc4es.org/>. The JCC will plan to coordinate a meeting with town council members and the other environmental groups working across Jamestown to discuss setting up a website supported by the Town. Education outreach initiatives could include water conservation, eco-friendly yard care, feeding wildlife, invasive plant control, dog waste/watershed protection; stormwater protection; coastal resiliency; community composting, etc.

D) Harbor Management Commission- no new updates.

E) Tree Committee-Barbara Lundy will continue discussing and coordinating with the Tree committee about the Town Tree trail map that is being developed-to see if the Tree trail will be added to the revised JCC Island Trail Guide.

F) Taylor Point Restoration Association (G. Souza). The TPRA have continued their every other Saturday clean up events (weather dependent) and are busy removing and

reducing invasive species (greenbrier) near the black cherry woodlands at Taylor Point.

G) Gould Island Restoration- no new updates since the last update on the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) restoration on Gould Island- extensive restoration work has been done over the fall/winter/spring-the Army Corp has completed removal of some hazards on Gould Island: Torpedo building, fire station, degaussing station, underground tanks, southern pier facility. The ACOE has collected soil samples around the island and will analyze the data, and plan for a Feasibility Study to conduct additional activities in Fall 2023. The feasibility study will produce options for further activities during 2024.

A) NEW BUSINESS

- A) Appointed JCC liaison to the Jamestown Bike Path Committee: Joyce Antoniello, Motion to approve 1st Anne Kuhn-Hines, 2nd Susan Shim Gorelick, all in favor, motion passed.
- B) Appointed JCC Liaison to the Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee: Susan Shim-Gorelick. D Motion to approve 1st Joyce Antoniello, 2nd Barbara Lundy, all in favor, motion passed.
- C) The next JCC meeting will be Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

B) ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn – **8:20 PM** –**Motion to adjourn George Souza 1st, Susan Shim Gorelick 2nd, all in favor-motion passed**

Respectfully submitted by Anne Kuhn-Hines