



JAMESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at Small Conference Room at Jamestown Town Hall

In attendance: G. Souza, B. Lundy, S. Shim Gorelick, A. Kuhn-Hines, Leo Orsi, J. Wurzbacher

Absent: J. Antoniello

- I. **Roll Call and Call to Order:** 6:50 PM **NOTE: Meeting moved from Town Council Chambers to small Conference Room due to scheduling conflict (meeting not recorded)**
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2021 **Motion to approve Meeting minutes 1st Susan Shim Gorelick, 2nd Leo Orsi - all in favor - motion passed.**
- III. **OPEN FORUM:**
 - A) Scheduled request to address: None Scheduled.
 - B) Non-scheduled request to address: None.
- IV. **CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**
 - A) JCC received a letter from two residents (Spirketing Street and Beach Ave.) opposing the proposal to allow the dirt portions-middle section of Steamboat Street to revert to wetlands by creating dead ends in the middle of Steamboat Street. The letter was addressed to the Town Council and copied to JCC, Town Traffic Committee, Police Chief. The opposition detailed in the letter centered on the increased traffic concerns that could arise on Spirketing Street as a result of closing the mid-section of Steamboat Street. The letter also details current problems with Spirketing Street (speeding and traffic flows).
- V. **CRMC, RIDEM, & Town of Jamestown Ordinance Review:**
 - A) Reviewed and discussed revised RIDEM wetland setbacks. Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/promulgations/part/250-150-15-2>. Revised Freshwater Wetlands Rules have been finalized and RIDEM has now extended the effective date for the new rules from January 15, 2022 to July 1, 2022.
- VI. **Old Business & Committee Reports:**
 - A) Rights of Way/Parks/Greenways & Public Access: Land Protection and Stewardship: No new updates to report on the 91 Carr Lane Mixed -Income Development project proposal since the July 7, 2021 JTN Planning Commission Meeting regarding the 91 Carr Lane project proposal (when the Church Community Housing Corporation requested more time to revise the proposal). Update on the Wickford Avenue ROW-the Town Administrator (Jamie Hainsworth) said that the town agreement with the neighbor to the south of Wickford Avenue has been legally finalized and the town will have access to the water. This legal agreement will not be affected by any subsequent sale of the neighbor's property (which is currently for sale). The JCC discussed that we will continue looking into applying for trail grants, matching grants, etc to support the building of a stairway to access water at Wickford Ave ROW. The JCC discussed how

they fully support the Jamestown Friends of ROWs and Roads and will co-sign the MOU with the Friends of ROWs and Roads, the Town of Jamestown, Save the Bay and CRMC, when it is finalized. The JTN Friends of ROWs presented their proposal to sign the MOU with CRMC at the December 6, 2021 Town Council Meeting. The Town Council did not agree to sign the MOU, as they had questions about the different roles for each entity signing on to the MOU. The JCC discussed the need to review the CRMC restoration plan for the Hull Street ROW violations-which included clearcutting in the coastal buffer zone- the Town issued a “cease & desist” order and the CRMC will fine the violators and is requiring a restoration plan for the property. The JCC will ask the CRMC to review the Hull Street Restoration plan as it relates to the Hull Street ROW. The JCC discussed the development of JCC proposal to the Town of Jamestown for American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funding to adapt the Kit Wright trail for accessibility and for maintenance projects at the Conanicut Island Sanctuary Trail (and possibly other trails). The JCC will develop a draft project proposal for the Kit Wright trail adaptation, along with an estimate of costs for materials, equipment, labor.

- B) The JCC continued discussing the possibility of using drone aerial imagery for portions of the Trail map (e.g., Godena Farm and Parker Farm). The JCC discussed looking into purchasing the high-quality aerial photos (with the Town) that will be very useful for display board at events, Earth day, festivals, or Chamber events in Town in the future. Barbara Lundy has been in contact with the professional photographer who has taken amazingly beautiful professional aerial and landscape photos of various trail sites around Jamestown. The JCC needs to discuss these plans with the Town for a possibly acquiring/purchasing these images. JCC members will provide Barbara Lundy with their choice of “top 5” for each site/location (Beavertail, Hull Cove trail, Godena Farm, Parker Farm). There was discussion of also contacting Jamestown resident, Norm Kaplan, about sharing/using his images and photos of trails and ROWs around the island.
- C) Public education: 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 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 (G. Souza). No recent updates.
- E) Tree Committee (G. Souza). George Souza reported that the Tree Committee is busy focusing on conducting their tree inventory across the island, which they received a grant to do an island-wide tree inventory, and a grant to do capacity building, and identifying unique trees on the island.
- 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. They are also continuing to plant native tree species at Taylor Point.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A) The JCC acknowledges how **GRATEFUL** we are for **Jess Wurzbacher**'s time and efforts serving on the JCC these past 3 years- **THANKS, Jess!!!**

B) Next JCC Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn – 8:02 PM –Motion to adjourn Barbara Lundy 1st, Jess Wurzbacher 2nd, all in favor - motion passed

Respectfully submitted by Anne Kuhn-Hines