



JAMESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: R. Laman, B. Lundy, A. Kuhn-Hines, S. Shim-Gorelick, L. Orsi
Absent: R. Shein, J. Antoniello

Others in Attendance: Carol Nelson-Lee (JTN Friends of ROWs), Steve Bois (Harbor Management Commission-Executive Director & Harbor Master), Abutters of ROW #20: Dianne Churchill Nieboer (28 East Shore Road), Patrick & Kelleigh Welsch (16 East Shore Road)

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

II. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes: May 9, 2023, **Motion to approve Meeting minutes 1st Leo Orsi, 2nd Susan Shim-Gorelick, all in favor - motion passed.**

III. OPEN FORUM:

A) Scheduled Requests to Address: Harbor Management Commission, Executive Director, Steve Bois: HMC Executive Director & Harbor Master, Steve Bois presented an overview and update on the ROWs survey conducted collaboratively by HMC, JTN Friends of ROWs (Carol Nelson-Lee) and JCC Commissioner, Bob Laman. The group surveyed all 39 ROWs across the island and identified some issues and will be making recommendations to the Town Council in an updated ROWs Report (last submitted to Town in 2103).

Steve Bois and Bob Laman reported to the JCC (and provided pictures) about a few issues related to the Town-owned ROW # 20-located at the southern end of East Shore Road-just north of Potter's Cove. ROW # 20 has a number of encroachment issues: storage of dinghies, lobster pots, trailers, broken lawn mower, trash, overgrown brush and parking of vehicles on the ROW. Additionally, there were 'Private Property' and 'No Trespassing' signs posted on the ROW. Steve and Bob recommended that the owners of the dinghies and lobster pots be notified to remove their belongings. Steve and Bob also volunteered to clean up the trash and trim the overgrown bushes-to clear the space. The ROW # 20 abutting property owners on 16 (Welsch) and 28 (Churchill Nieboer) East Shore Road had many questions about ROW # 20. They indicated that the ROW was being used and maintained by a small group of people (Weeden Lane neighbors) and that they (Churchill Nieboer) were told when they bought their property (28 East Shore Road) four years ago that the abutters had an easement to the ROW. There was discussion on when the ROW became Town Owned property (acquired via tax default) and deemed a public ROW (early 1980's). The abutters of the ROW # 20 discussed the many issues they have encountered with people walking onto their properties, and on to their privately owned dock. They noted that they have posted signs: 'Beware of Dog' and 'Private Dock' signs to delineate their property and to discourage people from trespassing onto their private property. Another issued raised by the abutters was the issue of parking on the road adjacent to the ROW, and Steve Bois and Bob Laman noted that they will check the Town Ordinance. Bob Laman provided a draft Memo to the Town Council describing their efforts and recommendations for restoring the ROW # 20. The recommendations were to present these findings to the HMC, consult with the town and go ahead with cleaning up the

ROW- removing illegal signage and any leftover boats, lobster pots, etc. that are not claimed will be deposited at the police station (or transfer station).

B) Non-scheduled Requests to Address: None

IV. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

A) **Motion to approve Mapping & Planning Services (MPS) invoice for GIS-mapping services for redesign of new Conanicut Island Trail Guide (\$4,980); 1st Bob Laman, 2nd Leo Orsi, all in favor - motion passed.**

V. CRMC, RIDEM AND TOWN OF JAMESTOWN ORDINANCE REVIEW

VI. Old Business & Committee Reports:

A) **Rights of Way/Parks/Greenways & Public Access:** 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 state granting sources with funding available. The JCC will keep searching for trail grant funding opportunities. The JCC discussed how the recreation department is installing a split rail fence on the parking lot side at Mackerel Cove- and the JCC will possibly install and oversee the dune planting and restoration in early Fall-depending on how well the dunes fill in over the summer. The JCC discussed long-term plans for planting American beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) at the JTN Community Farm for sustainable annual dune replenishment at Mackerel Cove and other sites across the island. Susan Shim-Gorelick is continuing to explore this option with the JTN Community farm, and researching methods (e.g., Rhode Island Wild Plant Society and others) for the establishment of American beach grass (and possibly other dune plants in the future) at the JTN Community farm.

B) **Land Protection and Stewardship:** Barbara Lundy reported that a final draft of the revised Conanicut Island Trails Guide is progressing. Barbara Lundy will explore printing costs with a couple of printing companies-and the JCC will then discuss how many to order and explore financing from the Town for printing costs.

C) **Cross-Jamestown Collaboration:** The JCC will use the Environmental Earth Day fair to continue to connect and kickstart communications about community-wide collaborations with the other JTN environmental groups and try to coordinate a meeting with town council members and the other environmental groups working across Jamestown as soon as possible 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-** Bob Laman discussed how the Harbor Management Commission is updating and renewing their 5-year Harbor Management plan that will be reviewed by and submitted to CRMC. Bob Laman will review drafts of the updated Harbor Management Plan and report back to JCC with summary/overview of changes and the draft HMC management plan for JCC review before submittal to CRMC.

E) **Tree Committee-** No updates

G) **Gould Island Restoration-** Leo Orsi reported that he had attended a meeting that presented the findings of the US Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) study of 50 sites across Gould Island. Leo provided copies of the summary presentation which described the Remedial Investigation report with an overview of the Risk Assessment. The ACOE are following the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA) process. Leo noted that the ACOE and others stressed that this is a very long process (will take many years to complete the process). Looking ahead there will be a feasibility study and proposed plan for remedial action if necessary.

I) **Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee**- no new updates Susan Shim-Gorelick is in touch with Bob Plain and Quaker Case and they will provide updates on any future meetings.

J) **Jamestown Bike Path Committee**-no new updates

A) NEW BUSINESS

A) The next JCC meeting will be Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

B) ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn –**8:30 PM** –**Motion to adjourn Susan Shim-Gorelick 1st, Barbara Lundy 2nd, all in favor-motion passed**

Respectfully submitted by Anne Kuhn-Hines