



Jamestown Harbor Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Jamestown Town Hall
93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown RI 02835

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote
 - A. January 10, 2024
 - B. Mooring Sub-Committee – February 6, 2024
- III. Open Forum
 - A. Scheduled Requests to Address
 - B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address
- IV. Executive Director/Harbormaster Report – S. Bois
- V. Year-to-Date Financial Report
- VI. Sub-Committee Reports
 - A. Budget – S. Romano - Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;
 - B. Facilities – W. Banks & J. McCarthy - Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
 - C. Mooring Implementation – D. Wurzbacher & M. Campbell - Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
 - D. Gould Island Restoration – W. Banks & M. Campbell- Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
- VII. Liaison Reports
 - A. Conservation Commission – B. Laman – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
 - B. Town Council Liaison Report – R. White – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
 - B. Harbor Management Ordinance – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
- IX. Correspondence
 - A. Email from Josh Furtado
 - B. Letter from William and Mary Brennan
- X. New Business
 - A. Mooring Policy Changes – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
 - B. Public Meeting: Discussion and Possible Action to Order to Advertise in the Jamestown Press; Notice of a Public Meeting to take place on March 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. for Proposed Amendments to the Harbor Management Plan;
 - C. Use of Town Pier in East Ferry by Charter Boats and Educational Institutions – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
 - D. Ft. Getty Pier Repairs – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;
- XI. Open Forum – Continued (If Necessary)
- XII. Adjournment

Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-6(c) Notice of this meeting shall be posted on the Secretary of State's website and at the Town Hall, at the Jamestown Police Station and on the Internet at www.jamestownri.gov.

ALL NOTE: This meeting location is accessible to the physically challenged. If communications assistance is needed or other accommodations to ensure equal participation, please call 1-800-745-5555, or contact the Town Clerk at 401-423-9800, or email to rfagan@jamestownri.net not less than three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Posted on the RI Secretary of State website February 9, 2024

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Approved:

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 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 5:02 p.m.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman
Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner
Sue Romano, Commissioner
Mark Campbell, Commissioner
Tom Alexander, Commissioner
Jim Archibald, Commissioner

Absent:

Dan Wurzbacher, Vice-Chairman

Also in Attendance:

Steven Bois, Executive Director
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk
Bob Laman, Conservation Commission Liaison

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

A. December 13, 2023

Commissioner Romano moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 and Commissioner Campbell seconded. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

III. Open Forum

A. Scheduled Requests to Address

There were no scheduled requests to address.

B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address

Antonio Pinheiro of Beacon Avenue stated he uses the Ft. Getty pier year-round because his business is a year-round business. He also stated his opinion of the condition of the Ft. Getty pier and what it would take to repair it. There was some discussion.

IV. Executive Director and Harbormaster Report – S. Bois

Executive Director Bois stated that per the order of the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust, the town's insurance company, the Ft. Getty pier is closed to all use due to damage from the storm of December 17, 2023. He is in the process of procuring estimates for the repairs and will be working with Mike Gray of Public Works to get the pier repaired. There was some discussion. Executive Director Bois stated that Commissioner Alexander suggested more changes to the Harbor Ordinance. The Harbor Management Plan cannot be voted on tonight because the appendices still need to be inserted into the plan. He also discussed visits to different vendors who responded to the RFP for a new harbormaster vote. Executive Director Bois also addressed Chairman Banks' concern about the space on the pier assigned to aquafarmers/fishermen for equipment storage. He also discussed the revenue generated by the pier permits. Executive Director Bois prepared a survey of various other towns and how they manage their moorings for informational purposes. The pumpout stations need to be repaired/replaced in the amount of approximately \$25,000.00. Executive Director Bois is looking into grant opportunities from DEM to cover the cost of the pumpouts. There was also discussion about the negotiations between the Town and the operators of the Jamestown-Newport Ferry for pier use at East Ferry, along with charging other commercial users of the pier. The question was raised if any disaster relief or insurance money is available to pay for some of the Ft. Getty pier repairs. There may also be DEM grant money available because the pier is used by aquafarmers. Executive Director Bois will be attending the Newport City Council meeting this month to ask for a resolution of support for the southern portion of Gould Island to be opened for recreation. He also discussed hiring an intern this summer to assist the harbormasters.

V. Year-to-Date Financial Report

Commissioner Romano reported that we are halfway through the fiscal year and approximately 40% of the budget has been expended, although she knows there will be upcoming expenses in the next three months. There was some discussion.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Budget – S. Romano – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Commissioner Romano reported already under the financial report.

B. Facilities – W. Banks and J. McCarthy – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Chairman Banks and Commissioner McCarthy had nothing to report.

C. Mooring Implementation – D. Wurzbacher and M. Campbell – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Commissioner Campbell had nothing new to report, any changes will be discussed as part of the harbor ordinance revisions.

D. Gould Island Restoration – W. Banks and M. Campbel – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Chairman Banks had nothing to report and Executive Director Bois had covered Gould Island in his report.

VII. Liaison Reports

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

Commissioner Laman stated the subject of a proposed sugar kelp farm off the east side of Dutch Island had come up in a Conservation Commission meeting. The commission is not opposed to the farm itself, but the commissioners were wondering if the proposed location could cause an issue with vessels seeking refuge from storms. Some wind farm vessels have anchored on that side of Dutch Island to escape the recent storms. There was some discussion.

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

Councilor White was not in attendance.

VIII. Old Business

A. Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Executive Director Bois stated that he was planning on distributing the final draft of the Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan to be voted on, however, some of the appendices were not ready yet, so the vote will be delayed until the February meeting.

B. Harbor Management Ordinance – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Executive Director Bois turned the meeting over to the Commissioner Tom Alexander so he could discuss additional changes he proposed to the Harbor Management Ordinance. Commissioner Alexander stated that he went through the whole document and edited it to make it more cohesive. He also edited it for grammar and page numbering, and to make it more readable and logical.

In the course of the edits, Commissioner Alexander stated that additional changes to the outhaul requirements were made. Some of these changes will render some current outhaul permittees non-compliant with the ordinance, and he believes a process should be in place to grandfather those that have become non-compliant, and he believes it should be the Harbor Commission that determines who can be grandfathered. Votes were taken on the following changes:

1. Outhauls will be for Jamestown residents only – Commissioner McCarthy made a motion that outhauls will from now on be for Jamestown residents only, and if a non-resident currently has an outhaul permit, they will be grandfathered and allowed to keep it. Chairman Banks seconded the motion. There was no discussion. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

2. The minimum size of a vessel that can be on an outhaul is 13 feet – Commissioner McCarthy made a motion that the minimum size of a vessel that can be on an outhaul is 13 feet, and Chairman Banks seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

3. Liability Insurance – Chairman Banks made a motion that the owner of any vessel on an outhaul must provide a certificate of liability insurance, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded it. There was no discussion. So voted: 5 aye, and Commissioner Romano recused herself from voting.

4. Yacht club member vessels using a club mooring – Commissioner Alexander made a motion that vessels from a yacht club that are using a club mooring must check in on Channel 16 on VHF and/or on the Harbormaster cell phone that they will be using the mooring, and Chairman Banks seconded. There was some discussion. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

5. Decision maker for grandfather appeals – Chairman Banks made a motion that a permit holder whose vessel becomes non-compliant because of an ordinance change can appeal to the Harbor Commission, and it was seconded by Commissioner McCarthy. There was no discussion. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

Commissioner Alexander also discovered, during this process, that there is a Rhode Island law that states the Town Council must appoint the Harbormaster as the Commissioner of Wrecks, and that a \$5,000 bond be posted.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence this month.

X. New Business

A. Sale of Harbormaster Boat “Freedom” – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Executive Director Bois asked that the Harbor Commission vote to allow him to list the Harbormaster boat “Freedom” on the government auction resale site. Commissioner McCarthy made a motion that the boat be listed and Commissioner Romano seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

B. Purchase of Replacement Boat – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Executive Director Bois discussed the extensive process by which he and Commissioners Campbell and Archibald, and Larry Goss, Assistant Harbormaster, determined which boat would best suit the needs of the Harbor Department. They determined that another Ribcraft boat should be the choice to purchase. The price quoted was \$116,430. The estimates provided for the sale of the “Freedom” average about \$60,000, so the net purchase price would be

approximately \$56,000. The purchase price will be paid for by Harbor revenues, there is no cost to the taxpayers of Jamestown. There was some discussion. Commissioner McCarthy made a motion to have Executive Director Bois negotiate for the purchase of a new Ribcraft boat and Commissioner Romano seconded. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

Commissioner McCarthy had to leave the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

C. Ft. Getty Use Agreement between Town and Commercial Fishermen/Aquafarmers – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Chairman Banks stated he had asked that this be put on the agenda, due to the addition of two more commercial fishermen/aquafarmers boats on the pier. He feels that the footprint for gear storage is large and may need to be reduced to give the two new people room, and that a height limit of 3 feet should be imposed. The current amount of storage allotted to each permit holder is 80 square feet, and Executive Director Bois proposed cutting the allotted storage space to 40 square feet. There was much discussion about how much equipment could actually fit in 40 square feet, who the users of the Ft. Getty pier are, and balancing the needs of the public with the commercial fishermen and aquafarmers.

Tony Pinheiro of Beacon Avenue stated that 40 square feet is only enough space to store about two cages. He also stated that each commercial operation is different and their space needs are different.

Joseph Pinheiro of Beacon Avenue stated he is at the pier every day, and he rarely sees anyone other than fishermen using the pier, and they are usually lined up with their fishing poles along the edge of the pier. He suggested having the permit holders keep their gear in the middle of the pier. He also stated that the commercial operations should not have space taken away from them at the Ft. Getty pier because of a proposed Town ordinance that would prohibit aquafarmers from storing their gear in their yard.

Paul Sprague of Mast Street suggested using the east end of the pier for commercial use/storage and make it off limits to the general public. The general public and recreational fishermen would have the use of the rest of the pier and the commercial gear would be out of the way. He also talked about the condition of the pier and has the name of a marine engineer if the Commissioners are interested.

Mark Goerner also addressed the storage space on the pier. Having the pier closed due to the storm damage is impacting his ability to get his cages out of the water and make repairs, as this is the time of year he usually does so. He does not usually use all of his allotted space, only when he needs to pull his cages, and then he removes them with his truck and trailer. He feels that cutting the amount of storage space in half would be unrealistic.

Executive Director Bois suggested instead of basing the square footage on the number of permits issued, that the space allotted be calculated by the size of the fishing/aquaculture operation. There was some discussion.

XI. Open Forum – Continued (If Necessary) – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;

Paul Sprague of Mast Street asked for clarification on the mooring waiting list. He looked at it last week and it appeared to him that there were people at the top of the list who had very recently applied to be on the wait list. Harbor Clerk Rich explained that the people on the top of the wait list were riparian property owners and were automatically placed at the top of the list no matter when they had applied. There is also sometimes an issue with Online Mooring in that the people near the top of the wait list are there because activity had recently taken place on their account, instead of being sorted by the date of application.

Joseph Pinheiro of Beacon Avenue commented on the location of the two new permits that are being issued for the Ft. Getty pier. He feels the spot on the north will have a problem if there is an east wind and strong tide because it will crash into the dock. Executive Director Bois will meet with Joe, Jim Alexander, and Therman Richard to discuss vessel placement.

Executive Director Bois also reported on how different towns in Rhode Island manage their moorings i.e. allowing grace periods, if a person can decline a mooring offer, if other towns require a vessel on a mooring to have a DEM registration and insurance, limits on the number of moorings an individual can have, mooring transfer to a family member, yacht club and commercial businesses having a private mooring, etc. He is going to propose changes to how the Harbor Office manages its moorings. There was some discussion.

There being no further business, Commissioner Romano moved to adjourn and Chairman Banks seconded. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay.

Attest,

Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION MOORING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Approved:

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) Mooring Sub-Committee was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

The meeting began at 2:00 p.m. with the following present: Wayne Banks, Chairman, Mark Campbell, Commissioner, Steven Bois, Harbor Director, Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk.

The topic of discussion was the way the Harbor Department is managing the moorings and wait lists. The Harbor Director has added the different mooring fields and the individual moorings to the chart in Online Mooring so harbor staff can see who is in what mooring field, and where the riparian moorings are. In addition to the mooring fields and moorings, the chart also shows anchorage areas and conservation areas. There was discussion about the appearance that some moorings are in the conservation areas and the need for validation of the GPS coordinates.

Executive Director Bois stated that he would like to make changes to how moorings and the wait lists are managed:

- Enforcement of registrations being in the Online Mooring accounts;
- Top 5 on each mooring area wait list must have a boat registered in the Online Mooring account;
- The Grace Period request would now be approved by the Harbor Commission, along with a temporary mooring transfer to someone on the wait list, if applicable;
- No commercial businesses should be allowed to have a private mooring;
- No more moorings would be granted to yacht clubs;

Executive Director Bois also discussed potential changes that would only apply to the East and West Ferry mooring areas:

- 1 mooring only per individual e.g. if someone has a mooring in East Ferry, that person would not be allowed to have a mooring in West Ferry. If a person is already on the wait list for a second mooring, they would be at the bottom of the wait list;
- Riparian property owners would only be granted one mooring. If they want a second guest mooring, they would have to go on the wait list;
- A mooring offer may only be declined once, if an offer is declined a second time, the person will go to the bottom of the wait list;
- The harbormaster should have the authority to declare a vessel unseaworthy;
- No dinghies/kayaks on outhauls;

There was some discussion about whether the Town could restrict riparian property moorings, and whether these changes should be added to the Harbor Ordinance under review or if they should be added to the Harbor Rulebook. Executive Director Bois stated he was going to present the changes to the full Harbor Commission at next week's meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3:07 p.m.

Attest,

Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk

January-February Executive Director Report

Does this report help you understand what is happening, or discontinue it
Fort Getty Storm Damage, Engineering material/structural condition analysis in work
3rd Ferry meeting held, impasse concerning pier costs, Ferry touch and go remains free
Newport TC meeting 24 Jan, request for Gould Island support, went well
Mooring wait list time reduction proposals
East Ferry use by commercial charters draft—comments needed
Outhauls, no evidence were built for dinghies
Advance notices about changes coming, public notification emails

HM and Exec Director Plans for February-March

Harbor Ordinance into TA, TC review
Harbormaster vessel resale and purchase closure process approval with TC
Mooring Process Other Towns continues
Harbor Intern Program solicitation, will go out with other summer hires
Harbor Master solicitation, will out by end Feb
Mooring area openings analysis underway, modified sw to show where all moorings are and which permits are inside

February 14 Votes needed

Approval to move forward conducting Fort Getty repairs, estimate = 350-500k,
Harbor Capital Reserve/FEMA/Insurance/WF Repairs account
Approve public forum 13 March for any public input concerning Harbor Management Plan
Agenda notices to all permit holders, wait list members

Meeting Packet Enclosures:

Mooring wait list time reduction--EAST/WEST HARBORS
Enforce boat registration proof for all, including Riparian
Riparian 20 day occupancy requirement same as all in harbor areas
Must have registered boat when enter top 5 spots on wait list
Allow grace period or temporary use permit for 1 year only (within 5 year period)
On water analysis to determine if we are under CRMC HMP allowances for numbers
Promote temporary use system, emails out to all, incl Riparian in harbors
No new moorings to private companies
No new moorings out to non-resident yacht clubs
In Harbors only, Limit mooring number per person/household to 1 only, Riparians on wait list for guest or second. No more than 2 for Riparians in harbors
limit number of offer rejections to 1 only, need discussion with Hexec Dir after
require boats be operable, seaworthy as determined by HM
Harbor Areas Require larger (non-dinghy, non kayak) on outhauls/moorings
Limit wait list areas/boat types list number to 2 areas, 2 boat sizes only

The staff is developing a draft of rules for the management and use of the touch and go docks located at East Ferry. Specifically, the two (2) outer touch and go's and the one (1) inner "ferry dock"

These basic rules are viewed a necessary after observations made during the 2023 season including the operation of PUC ferries, charter vessels, non-profits and recreational vessels using this space. The adoption of such rules will allow for staff to best manage the spaces available while avoiding potential user conflicts.

General principals discussed to date include the following:

- Ferries are those vessels which provide transportation from port to port and are regulated by the PUC on a daily schedule and fee.
- There would be **NO COST** for scheduled PUC ferries to load/unload passengers

- Charters are those which provide tours open to the public, private parties renting the entire vessel or scheduled trips (ramp up) which accommodate special events such as those at Ft Adams.

- The two outer touch and go's would be limited to recreational users **ONLY**.
- The ferry dock (inner touch and go) would be only for PUC scheduled ferries and charter vessels with permit.

- All charter vessels loading or unloading passengers from any Town facility must obtain a permit from the Harbor Master.
- ALL passengers must be loaded/unloaded using the ferry dock (inner touch and go)
- Ferries which provide exclusive PUC trips would not pay a permit fee
- Non-profit educational vessels with 50 or less passenger capacity: \$ 50
- Commercial vessels with 50 or less passenger capacity: \$ 750
- Commercial vessels with 51 or more passenger capacity: \$ 1000
- Each vessel requires a permit annually.
- Vessels with ports of origin outside of the Bay may be prohibited.
- No charter vessels can use Jamestown as "port of origin" for ticketing passengers without an additional agreement from the Town. Their passengers **MUST** board at other ports.

Staff is seeking comment and input from the Commission members are work continues to develop these rules.

Joan Rich

From: Guava <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 8:43 AM
To: Steven G. Bois
Cc: Joan Rich; Wayne Banks; Mark Campbell
Subject: Re: Question

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Jamestown email system. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and determine the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Jamestown Harbor Commission,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you in a state of distress regarding the recent decision to not renew my outhaul permit for the upcoming 2024 season. I deeply regret missing the appeal period due to the notice being sent to my PO box, which I infrequently check.

I wish to bring to your attention some key aspects of my situation, which I hope warrant a reconsideration of this decision. My history with the harbor is not just that of a permit holder; the outhaul has been a big part of my family's life on this island. This outhaul has been a cherished part of our connection to Jamestown, a constant through years of joy and struggle and I will do what it takes to maintain this aspect of our lives.

I respect the issues cited for the non-renewal of my permit, but ask that such a severe consequence be reconsidered. The absence of evidence of vessel ownership for my current renewal, for instance, stems from my recent rush to purchase and register a new boat by the renewal deadline. I have been negotiating with a marina on Nantucket and was planning to pick up the boat and paperwork this weekend so that I could make the renewal deadline with the new registration. As far as past boats, with the exception of last year, I've always kept a boat on the outhaul for full seasons. The boats I've kept in the past were often co-owned, and this arrangement was never an issue with previous harbor masters.

More than just a place for my boat, I consider Dutch a community and try to be a good steward and a good neighbor. I often check on boats during storms and alert neighbors if there's an issue. I've even waded into the water during storms to keep a neighbor's boat off the rocks after finding their tackle broken. I even have a painting of the view from our Outhaul hanging in my home. I understand the need to adhere to policy and logistics and understand the value going forward, but this would be a very personal loss for my family.

In regards to last season, a misunderstanding with the harbormaster over the temporary use of my outhaul contributed to my non-compliance with the 20-day occupancy rule. I was under the impression that the harbormaster would oversee the temporary assignment of my spot, a promise that went unfulfilled.

On a more personal note, my family has navigated through significant financial hardships recently, which impeded our ability to swiftly purchase a new boat last year. It's a journey that has been challenging, but we are in a good place now and feel more resilient than ever. The prospect of losing this outhaul is not just a logistical issue for us; it feels like losing a big part of our life on the island.

I understand the harbor's stance on stricter adherence to ordinances, and I fully intend to align myself with these regulations moving forward. However, I humbly ask that you consider the history, the efforts, and the commitment I have shown towards this community.

I am more than willing to discuss this matter further and would have a new registration in my name for this years renewal by next week. Your understanding and reconsideration in this matter would mean the world to me and my family.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I eagerly await the opportunity to continue being an active and compliant member of our cherished harbor community.

Sincerely,

February 6, 2024

Edward A. Mello and the
Honorable Jamestown Town Council Members
Town of Jamestown
250 Conanicut Avenue
Jamestown, RI 02835

Dear Town Administrator Mello and Town Council Members,

We are writing to express our concerns with the proposed changes by the Harbor Management Commission to the West Ferry outhauls.

We have been communicating with the Harbormaster and Commission since last December regarding proposed changes to the West Ferry Outhauls. From what we understand, we are approved for outhaul #11 (which we have had for many years) but changes to the ordinance have been passed by the Harbor Commission. Apparently the Harbor Commission still must vote to send the changes to the Town Council and a public forum may be scheduled to discuss the changes, and then the changes must ultimately be passed by the Town Council before they can take effect.

We are unable to attend meetings in person and wanted to go on record with the Council regarding our concerns prior to the public forum.

We owned and lived in 238 Narragansett Avenue next to DHBV for approximately 30 years, relocating to Wakefield 2 years ago. In the early 1990's, we placed our name on a mooring list and waited our turn. We now have a wonderful mooring. For many years we purchased launch services through DHBV to access the mooring. At one point there was a disagreement with a previous DHBV owner, who consequently denied us launch service. In order to access our mooring we placed our name on the outhaul list since access to our mooring was denied.

We waited patiently for approximately 15 years for an outhaul space to become available and finally received approval for an outhaul 3 or 4 years ago. We purchased a 11 foot Puffin rowing dinghy specifically for the outhaul and access to our mooring. During our 30 years living at West Ferry most of the boats on the outhauls were a mix of dinghies, smaller skiff/quahogging/work vessels and smaller sail and outboard boats. The varied mix of boat sizes made out hauls work for everyone, as smaller vessels were intermingled with larger, and during stormy weather most boats rode out the storms un-damaged.

As you are aware, there is not a lot of width at the outhauls and with the proposed mandatory 13 foot or greater length means wider/ beamier boats and increased risk of potential collision problems during storms.

We renewed both our mooring and outhaul in January 2024 and paid the associated fees. The harbor clerk has informed us that our 11 foot vessel on the outhaul (Puffin rowing dinghy) may become non compliant because it is less than 13 feet in length.

This is concerning to us. We specifically purchased a smaller rowing dinghy and at no point in time were told that our vessel was an inappropriate size for the outhaul. In addition, we were Jamestown residents for 30 years and were very active citizens serving the town on various boards and committees for many years. For various reasons we sold our home, and now we may be considered non compliant because we moved off of the island. For all the years we lived on the Island both residents and non residents had access to the West Ferry outhauls. We waited our turn for 15 years for an outhaul to become available. We feel that we should not be penalized because it took so long for our names to move on the list, perhaps now to be replaced by a person who may only have resided in Jamestown for a short time.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments. We realize the pressure and demand for water access and are firm believers that the water is a resource to be enjoyed by all. However, we do feel that the current outhaul holders should not be penalized and lose their outhaul or be forced to purchase a new boat because others with larger vessels desire a space. It's almost like a parking garage refusing to park mini coopers because they want box trucks in the spaces. The revenue to the town does not change with boat size.

It is our request that you grandfather existing vessels of outhaul permit holders and have the new regulations apply to new applicants.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William and Mary Brennan

William and Mary Brennan

cc:Jamestown Harbor Commission Members, Jamestown HarborMaster, Jamestown Harbor Clerk