

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Approved: 4/10/24

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held on Wednesday, March 13, 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

Absent:

Dan Wurzbacher, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Alexander, Commissioner  
Jim Archibald, Commissioner

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. February 14, 2024**

Commissioner Romano moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2024, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: 4 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**

A. Executive Director Bois stated the Ft. Getty pier analysis was not ready yet, but Foth Engineering, the company performing the analysis, has concerns about the structure of the pier and needs more time to complete their study.

B. Negotiations are ongoing between the Town and the operators of the Jamestown/Newport Ferry.

C. The Freedom 21 was sold to Regan Marine Services for \$60,200.00.

D. The new Ribcraft vessel has been ordered. The price is \$116,300.00 so the net price, after the sale of the Freedom, is \$56,100.00.

E. The kayak permit wait list has been reduced by about 50%. Last summer there were approximately 200 people on the wait list and there are now 98.

F. Harbor staff are going to concentrate this year on enforcing the ordinance that every vessel that has a mooring or outhaul permit also has a current copy of the DEM registration uploaded to the Online Mooring account. About 50% of vessels do not have a current registration.

G. Executive Director Bois explained the difference between the Harbor Management Plan and the Harbor Ordinance, and he is planning workshops later in the spring to explain the changes to the Ordinance.

H. Executive Director Bois is planning on hiring a summer intern, and will interview the three candidates later in the week. He is also going to interview candidates for the Harbormaster position. Commissioner Romano asked how many applicants there were and who was going to do the interviewing. There were 31 candidates, of which about 6-8 will be interviewed, and Executive Director Bois will conduct the interviews along with Commissioner Mark Campbell and Assistant Harbormaster Larry Goss.

I. Mooring permits will be offered in April. Approximately 10 people have offered their moorings for the temporary use permits because they are seeking a grace period this year, and there are other moorings available in mooring fields that are not fully occupied. Other permit holders have relinquished their moorings and those are available.

Commissioner Campbell asked a question about the "votes needed" section of Executive Director Bois' report and the mooring wait list time reduction. Executive Director Bois stated he has several ideas to implement that will reduce the amount of time someone is on the wait list for a mooring, and he will discuss those later in the meeting. Commissioner Romano asked if Executive Director Bois can take the wait list as it stands now and model what it would look like if the changes are implemented, because she believes it would be helpful to understand why the changes would be made.

#### **V. Year-to-Date Financial Report**

Commissioner Romano had nothing to report.

#### **VI. Sub-Committee Reports**

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

Commissioner Romano had nothing to report.

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

There was nothing to report that would not be discussed later on in the meeting.

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

Commissioner Campbell had nothing to report.

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

On May 16, 2024, the Army Corps of Engineers will present their risk and mitigation plan, plus costs for said mitigation, for Gould Island. A meeting was also held with representative from the Shake-A-Leg Foundation, who are interested in having a handicapped-accessible sailing program on Gould Island.

**VII. Liaison Reports**

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

Commissioner Laman had nothing to report.

**B. Town Council – R. White – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**  
Councilor White was not in attendance.

**VIII. Old Business**

**A. Public Meeting: For Proposed Amendments to the Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Chairman Banks asked the audience to limit their questions/comments to 3 minutes. Executive Director Bois summarized the changes to the Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan by section and appendices, and opened the floor to questions after each section.

Deb Lawlor of Stanchion Street asked if a red-line version of the draft was available because she was unable to track the changes without it, and Executive Director Bois stated that a red-line copy would be uploaded to the Town website.

Kevin Lathan of North Road questioned when Sheffield Cove is open for shellfishing, because what he has been told by DEM last year is different than what is in the draft Plan.

Dianne Churchill Nieboer of East Shore Road also had questions about the designations for shellfishing by DEM for Potter's Cove, and if the changes to the Plan have been approved yet. Executive Director Bois explained that the proposed changes have been approved by the Harbor Commission but they still need to be approved by the Town Council.

Walter Bopp of Highland Drive had stated that with the word "Draft" written on each page, some of the text was difficult or impossible to read. He had questions about the Class 1a and 1b mooring designations, and if a property would lose its Class 1a designation if it is sold. Executive Director Bois explained the process a new riparian property owner has to go through in order to apply for a mooring.

There was a question regarding the procedure for approval, and if tonight was the only time to voice an objection. The updated Harbor Management Plan has been approved by the Harbor Commission, and then must be approved by the Town Council, Dept. of Environmental

Management, and Coastal Resources Management Council. If there are a lot of objections to the changes to the Plan, additional workshops can be scheduled. It was also pointed out that tonight's Public Meeting was about the updated Comprehensive Management Plan, and that updates to the Harbor Management Ordinance have been ongoing, but that a Public Hearing would be scheduled at a later date, because it must be coordinated with the Town Administrator, Town Clerk, and Town Solicitor.

Alec Knowles of Southwest Avenue stated that he thought the new Temporary Use Permit program was a good idea. The program would allow a mooring holder, if they are not going to use their mooring for the year or a portion of the year, to transfer the use of that mooring to someone on the wait list on a temporary basis. It would give people on the wait list a chance to use a mooring, and ensure the moorings in Jamestown are all being utilized. There was some discussion of the potential liability of a boat breaking free when the boat owner does not own/is not responsible for the tackle, and how that should be handled.

Angus Taylor of Marine Avenue stated he has used Dockwa when he takes his boat to Nantucket and Edgartown, and has sometimes used private moorings. All of the documentation is taken care of through Dockwa, and suggested that could be one way to manage the temporary use program.

Marian Falla of Green Lane questioned why the draft Plan stated that boat insurance is optional and the draft Ordinance states it is required in certain cases. There was some discussion, and the Plan and the Ordinance will be worded so that they are consistent.

Steve Santoro of Sloop Street questioned the logistics of the temporary use program as far as who would pay and how the Harbor Office will track usage. The program will be for boaters on the wait list, it is not for transient boaters looking for a mooring for a few days.

Joseph Pinheiro of Beacon Avenue asked for improvements to the boat ramp at Ft. Getty. He would like to see the conservation area in Sheffield Cove changed to allow for improvements to the ramp. There was some discussion, with Tony Pinheiro and Kevin Lathan adding suggestions.

Commissioner Romano asked about the Right of Way adoption process. Commissioner Laman of the Conservation Commission stated the Town would like more control over that process. There was some discussion.

Susan Gregoire of Watson Avenue would like to see changes in how the moorings are managed and was informed that would be a discussion when the Ordinance changes are discussed, and there will be several opportunities for public comment.

Mary Brennan of Wakefield, formerly of Jamestown, has an outhaul permit and stated she was unaware of the new insurance requirement for outhauls. There was some discussion.

**B. Proposed Amendments to the Harbor Management Ordinance – Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote;**

Executive Director Bois listed additional changes he would like to add the Harbor Management Ordinance in his report, and they will be discussed and voted on individually.

1. All vessels must have proof of DEM registration, including riparian vessels; Chairman Banks moved to approve and Commissioner McCarthy seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: 4 aye, 0 nay.

Commissioner Campbell stated the first item under “votes needed” in the Executive Director report regarding the ratio of private to commercial moorings in East Ferry and Dutch Harbor, which should be 60% private, had been skipped over. There was some discussion.

2. Persons on the wait list must show evidence of boat ownership/registration when they are in the top 3 spots on the wait list; There was some discussion whether the Harbor Commission should use the top 3 or top 5, or some other number. Tony Pinheiro from Beacon Avenue stated he was on the wait list for 13 years, and once he was in the top 3, it still took 8 years before he got a mooring, so he feels it is restrictive to require someone to own a boat before they get a mooring. There was some discussion with Executive Director Bois stating the person on the wait list must show registration or evidence they are attempting to purchase a boat.

Ian Walsh of Bow Street questioned why the Harbor Commission was voting on Harbor Management Ordinance issues when he was under the impression tonight’s meeting was a Public Meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the Harbor Management Ordinance. Some discussion ensued.

Commissioner McCarthy had to leave, meaning there would no longer be a quorum. Chairman Banks made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Commissioner Romano. So voted: 4 aye, 0 nay, and the meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Attest,

  
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk