

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Approved: 6/12/24

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, May 8, 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 5:00 p.m., and welcomed the new Harbormaster, Bart Totten.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman
Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner (Arrived at 5:02)
Sue Romano, Commissioner
Mark Campbell, Commissioner
Tom Alexander, Commissioner
Jim Archibald, Commissioner

Also in Attendance:

Edward Mello, Town Administrator
Steven Bois, Executive Director
Bart Totten, Harbormaster
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk
Randy White, Town Council Liaison
Bob Laman, Conservation Commission Liaison

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

A. April 10, 2024

Commissioner Romano made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2024, and Chairman Banks seconded. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay (Commissioner McCarthy had not arrived yet).

III. Open Forum

A. Scheduled Requests to Address – None.

B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address

Chairman Banks announced that Open Forum would be moved to later in the meeting.

Town Administrator Mello requested that Chairman Banks hear the East Ferry Commercial Agreement listed under Old Business prior to the Executive Director's report, as he only had a short period of time in which to address the matter. Commissioner Romano made a motion to

move the Old Business to the top of the agenda, and Chairman Banks seconded. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay (Commissioner McCarthy had not arrived yet).

IV. Old Business

A. East Ferry Commercial Agreement – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Town Administrator Mello discussed the Harbor Management Rule Book and how the revisions to it apply to the management and use of the three docks at East Ferry – the two, outer, touch and goes and the inner ferry dock. Town Administrator Mello requested the Harbor Commission convene a special meeting next Tuesday to address the consideration and adoption of the Rule Book, the consideration and adoption of the rates for commercial charter permits, and how they applied to the East Ferry docks, because it was not fully addressed or listed on the agenda. It would then be presented to the Town Council for consideration.

The sections of the Rule Book that apply to the user agreement and rates for commercial charters are found on Page 15. There are also sections of the Harbor Ordinance that apply to the enforcement and regulation of the traffic/use of the docks and waterways in East Ferry, along with corresponding fines. There was some discussion. Chairman Banks moved to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jamestown Town Hall, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Romano. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

V. Executive Director's Report – S. Bois

1. Foth Engineering Report regarding the repairs needed for the Ft. Getty dock and an estimate from Reagan Marine Construction of \$225,000.00 to complete those repairs. Executive Director Bois stated that amount is beyond the scope of the Harbor Department. The Foth report was also presented to the Town Council at their meeting Monday night, and there was discussion that the Public Works Department would price out the materials, estimated to be between \$60-70,000.00, and town personnel would make some of the repairs to the dock to make it safe for use. There is no guarantee as to how long the repairs will last. There was some discussion, and Commissioner Campbell asked where the money would come from to pay for the repairs, and it will be out of the Harbor budget.
2. Harbor Management Plan will be presented to the Town Council at the May 20th meeting.
3. The Harbor team will begin work on Friday, May 24, which is the beginning of Memorial Day Weekend. There was some discussion.
4. The Rhib repairs cost approximately \$6,000.00 and it will go in the water either the end of this week or the beginning of the next.
5. The new Rhib is scheduled for delivery in mid-June.
6. Executive Director Bois met with the Conservation Commission to present the idea of installing a touch and go dock near the boat ramp at Ft. Getty, and the Commission voted to support the installation. Executive Director Bois and Conservation Commissioner Laman met with a representative of the Audubon Society about the touch and go, who did not have any objection to it. The next step is submitting an application to CRMC.
7. Executive Director Bois is going to schedule working groups to go over the changes to the Harbor Management Ordinance.

8. The available moorings are continuing to be reassigned, and 12 moorings are available for the Temporary Use program.
9. Harbormaster training will begin May 20th.
10. The touch and go docks have been installed at East Ferry and the Dutch Harbor docks will go in next week. The pumpouts will be installed late next week or early the following week.
11. Executive Director Bois would like the Harbor Commission to begin prioritizing projects in the 5-Year Plan in order to get cost estimates and for budgeting purposes.
12. Commissioner Jim Archibald has offered to help manage the Ft. Getty pier and any other waterfront projects that may come up. There was some discussion.
13. The Park Dock kayak rack will be constructed. There was some discussion.

VI. Year-to-Date Financial Report

Commissioner Romano had nothing new to add to the budget report.

VII. Sub-Committee Reports

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

Commissioner Romano had nothing to report.

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

Chairman Banks and Commissioner McCarthy had nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Campbell stated the changes to mooring regulations would be presented at the working groups that will be scheduled at a later date.

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

The Army Corps of Engineers will present the results of the contamination of Gould Island and outline their mitigation plan at a meeting on June 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Jamestown Town Hall. Executive Director Bois had a teleconference with representatives from the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation to request funding and support for the efforts to open Gould Island as a public recreation area.

VIII. Liaison Reports

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

Commissioner Laman stated that the Town Council approved the new program for adopting CRMC designated rights-of-way and discussed what the requirements and limitations were of the program. There was some discussion. Commissioner Laman also discussed the possibility of putting a touch and go dock at Ft. Getty. The Conservation Commission is not fundamentally opposed to a touch and go dock, but there is a lengthy application process to go through, and they are supportive of Executive Director Bois in his efforts to obtain approval. There is some concern about the eelgrass bed on the west side of Dutch Island. There was some discussion.

B. Town Council – R. White – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;
Councilor White stated that the Town Clerk has advertised the open position on the Harbor Commission from Vice-Chairman Wurzbacher's departure, and the application deadline is May 15, 2024. Recent applicants for the Harbor Commission will also be solicited if they are still interested. Councilor White is unsure if that deadline will allow for interviews at the May 20 Town Council meeting, otherwise the interviews would take place at the June 17 meeting.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

X. New Business

A. Appointment of New Vice-Chair of Harbor Commission – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Commissioner Romano nominated Commissioner Tom Alexander as Vice-Chairman of the Harbor Commission, and Commissioner Archibald seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

B. Appeal of Josh Furtado of Outhaul Permit Revocation – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Executive Director Bois stated the reasons why Mr. Furtado had his outhaul permit revoked. Mr. Furtado, of Spirketing Street, admitted that he did not have a boat last year, which is why he did not use his outhaul, and provided a title and registration to his new boat. He also stated he had never received a violation since he has had his outhaul permit, and stated his other reasons for appealing. There was some discussion. Commissioner McCarthy made a motion to override the Executive Director's revocation of Mr. Furtado's outhaul permit, and Commissioner Romano seconded. There was more discussion. So voted: 5 aye, 1 nay, and Mr. Furtado's outhaul permit will be reinstated.

C. Request by Jack Civic to let Jesse Bazarnick use his Guest Mooring a Second Year – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Executive Director Bois stated that Jesse Bazarnick is an oyster farmer who had been offered a spot on the Ft. Getty pier, but, due to the closure of the pier, is unable to use it. Jack Civic let Mr. Bazarnick use his guest mooring last year, and has offered to let Mr. Bazarnick use it again this year. The mooring is located at the north end of Dutch Harbor. Commissioner Campbell questioned the language in Mr. Civic's letter that would let Mr. Bazarnick use the mooring from 2-3 months up to the entire season, and perhaps into 2025. There was some discussion. Chairman Banks moved to allow Jesse Bazarnick to use Jack Civic's mooring a second year, and Commissioner Campbell asked the motion be amended that Mr. Bazarnick be allowed to use Mr. Civic's mooring for only 2-3 months. Commissioner Archibald seconded the amended motion. The vote for the amended motion was 6 aye, 0 nay.

D. Appeal of Mary Brennan to place an Undersized Vessel on an Outhaul – Review, Discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Commissioner Romano made a motion to grant the exception to place an undersized vessel on an outhaul and it was seconded by Commissioner Alexander. There was some discussion. William Brennan of Shadow Farm Way in Wakefield explained the reasons he and his wife have an undersized vessel on their outhaul. There was more discussion. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay, and the exemption is granted.

E. Appeal of Wickford Yacht Club of Mooring Cancellation – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Executive Director Bois explained why he revoked one of the three mooring permits granted to Wickford Yacht Club, mainly, because no boats from the yacht club were observed using any of the three moorings last summer. There was some discussion. John Hughes, from the Wickford Yacht Club, disputed that the moorings were never used. He stated that the moorings are so popular that WYC pays for launch service from TPG Dutch Harbor to the three moorings. Mr. Hughes asked that the appeal be continued to the next meeting so that he can meet with Executive Director Bois to go over last year's use of the moorings by WYC members and clarify exactly what is required of the club to be in compliance with the permit regulations. There was some discussion. Some of the commissioners asked if the club could live with two moorings. There was more discussion. Chairman Banks moved to continue the appeal to next month, and was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

F. Report from Foth Infrastructure on Ft. Getty Pier – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Commissioner Campbell asked how much the study cost, which was \$40,000.00, and it is going to cost approximately \$60,000.00 to repair the pier just to make it usable. Is \$100,000 a good use of Harbor's assets? There was some discussion.

Tony Pinheiro of Beacon Avenue stated he read the report and disputed the use of the term "unknown" as to how long the pier is going to last, and does not believe the pier needs to be completely replaced. He also questioned why the electrical conduits would be taken off the dock. He also suggested a payment option for the aquafarmers so they could pay at the beginning of the fiscal year July 1 instead of December or January.

Joseph Pinheiro of Beacon Avenue stated that he thought \$40,000.00 was a ridiculous price to pay for the engineering study. There was some discussion.

Chairman Banks stated he thought that \$80K was a good deal to get the pier repaired and get five more years out of it. There was some discussion, including options for other funding sources to repair the dock. The materials to repair the dock will be purchased by Mike Gray, the Director of Public Works, and the repairs will begin late May or early June.

XI. Open Forum – Continued (If Necessary)

None.

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Romano made a motion to adjourn, and was seconded by Chairman Banks. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay, and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Attest,



Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk