

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Approved: 7/10/24

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, June 12, 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**

Vice-Chairman Tom Alexander called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Tom Alexander, Vice-Chairman  
Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner  
Sue Romano, Commissioner  
Mark Campbell, Commissioner  
Jim Archibald, Commissioner

Absent:

Wayne Banks, Chairman

Also in Attendance:

Edward Mello, Town Administrator  
Fred Pease, Interim Executive Director  
Bart Totten, Harbormaster  
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk

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

**A. May 8, 2024**

Commissioner Romano made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2024 and Commissioner Campbell seconded. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay.

**B. May 14, 2024**

Commissioner Romano made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2024 and Commissioner McCarthy seconded. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay.

**III. Open Forum**

**A. Scheduled Requests to Address**

There were no Scheduled Requests to Address.

## **B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address**

Marian Falla of Green Lane questioned how the proposed changes to the Rule Book, on tonight's agenda, would be merged with the existing Harbor Ordinance, and if the fee schedule would supersede what is already in the ordinance. Town Administrator Mello explained the difference between the Rule Book, the Harbor Management Ordinance, and the Harbor Management Plan, and how the changes would be incorporated. There was some discussion.

## **IV. Executive Director's Report – F. Pease**

Interim Executive Director Pease discussed the new staffing in the Harbor Department. In addition to Harbormaster Bart Totten, there are two assistant harbormasters and two college interns.

The pumpouts at East and West Ferry are being upgraded, which will be paid for through a grant from DEM. The East Ferry pumpouts are operational and the West Ferry pumpout is waiting for a part but should be operational by the end of next week.

The new harbormaster boat is scheduled to be ready at the end of June, and an inspection visit will be scheduled shortly.

The Public Works department is working on the repairs to the Ft. Getty pier, and the Town is pursuing reimbursement for the repairs from FEMA. The pier should be open in the next week or two. There was some discussion.

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

The year-to-date financial report was not available.

## **VI. 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;**

Commissioner McCarthy had nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Campbell had nothing to report.

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

The Army Corps of Engineers held a meeting on June 6 regarding the contamination of Gould Island and potential mitigation of the contamination. The original proposed use for Gould Island was to be for camping outside of the bird nesting season, ~~so the area of the island that would be turned over to DEM/Town of Jamestown could only be used from June through August.~~ Due to the level of contamination, it is currently only suitable for a wildlife sanctuary, but if a proposal is submitted to change the future use, the ACOE could clean it up, but it would only clean up the hazardous waste, it would not address any safety issues on the island

infrastructure. ~~The Conservation Commission wants the island to remain only as a wildlife sanctuary.~~ Another meeting will be held in October. There was some discussion, and Town Administrator Mello went over the Harbor Commission's role as an advocate for Gould Island.

## **VII. Liaison Reports**

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

Commissioner Laman was not in attendance.

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

## **VIII. Old Business**

### **A. Update on Appeal of Wickford Yacht Club of Mooring Cancellation – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

John Hughes and Jeri Levesque appeared on behalf of the Wickford Yacht Club, and stated they had met with Bart Totten about their plans for better record keeping to show usage of their permitted moorings in Dutch Harbor. They are also going to better identify the mooring balls, and members must fly the club burgee and keep a record in their log book when they are on the moorings. Mr. Hughes stated the moorings are very popular with their members and wish to have all three moorings in good standing, and retain good relations with the Harbormaster. Harbormaster Totten agreed they had a very productive meeting and he has no issue with their request to keep the third mooring. Commissioner Romano made a motion to rescind the revocation of the mooring and adhere to the guidelines presented by Wickford Yacht Club and the Harbormaster, and it was seconded by Commissioner Archibald. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay, and the mooring permit was reinstated.

### **B. Update on Ft. Getty Pier repairs – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

Interim Executive Director Pease had already addressed the Ft. Getty pier repairs. Commissioner Archibald stated that he had been asked by the previous Executive Director to assist in managing the waterfront, which he does not have a problem with, but he has not been assigned to the Facilities Sub-Committee, and feels he is over-stepping those who are on the Sub-Committee. He would like to have his sub-committee appointment added to the agenda for the July meeting. There was some discussion about other projects and costs associated with the Ft. Getty pier.

## **IX. Correspondence**

### **A. Letter from Attorney Christian Infantolino**

Attorney Infantolino had suggested some revisions to the Harbor Rule Book that related to the use of the concrete dock in East Ferry, and those changes have been incorporated. There was some discussion.

**X. New Business**

**A. Amendments to the Harbor Management Rule Book to include language regarding the use of East Ferry Touch and Go Docks and Ferry Dock – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

Commissioner Romano made a motion to amend the Harbor Management Rule Book to include the language regarding the use of the East Ferry touch and go docks and the ferry dock, and it was seconded by Commissioner Archibald. There was some discussion. Paul Sprague of Mast Street asked if the fee schedule will be voted on with this item or if it will be voted on separately, which it will be under the next item on the agenda. There was more discussion. So voted: 4 aye, 1 nay.

**B. Amendments to Permit Fee Schedule to include permits for the use of Ferry Dock – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;**

Commissioner Romano made a motion to accept the amendments to the permit fee schedule and Commissioner Archibald seconded. Paul Sprague of Mast Street commented that he believes the Jamestown Newport Ferry should be exempt from paying the charter vessel permit fee. There was some discussion. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay.

**XI. Open Forum – Continued (If Necessary)**

Commissioner Archibald asked about the status of the appointment of the seventh Harbor Commission member, and it is on the agenda for the June 17 Town Council meeting. Commissioner Archibald also asked about the status of the appointment of a permanent Harbor Director, and the interview process has not yet begun.

**XII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Romano made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. So voted: 5 aye, 0 nay.

Attest,

  
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Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk