

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Approved:

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, July 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 5:04 p.m. and welcomed the new Commissioner, Bob Laman.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman
Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner
Sue Romano, Commissioner
Mark Campbell, Commissioner
Jim Archibald, Commissioner
Bob Laman, Commissioner

Absent:

Tom Alexander, Vice-Chairman

Also in Attendance:

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. June 12, 2024

Commissioner Romano moved to approve the minutes with corrections. There was discussion about the time period Gould Island could be used and the wishes of the Conservation Commission for the use of Gould Island. Chairman Banks seconded the motion. So voted: 5 aye, 1 abstain, and the minutes were approved as amended.

III. Open Forum

A. Scheduled Requests to Address

There were no scheduled requests to address.

B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address

Chairman Banks stated that Open Forum would be moved to the end of the meeting tonight, and stated he wanted to move Open Forum to the end of all the meetings, so people would be

able to comment on that meeting's business, and it would streamline the agenda. None of the other Commissioners had any objection to this.

Chairman Banks stated that he, the Town Administrator, Ed Mello, and the Harbormaster, Bart Totten, had interviewed two candidates for the Executive Director position, and they would be interviewing a third on Monday. There was some discussion.

IV. Executive Director's Report – F. Pease

Interim Executive Director Pease went over the costs to repair the Ft. Getty Pier, which totaled \$90,477.00. The biggest expense was the engineering report, and because Public Works personnel performed the repairs, there was a big savings in labor. Commissioner Romano thanked Commissioner Archibald for taking the time to oversee the repairs, and Commissioner Campbell asked if the Harbor Commission could send a letter of thanks or appreciation to the Town Manager, recognizing the Public Works personnel for their efforts in repairing the Ft. Getty pier. There was some discussion. Commissioner Archibald will draft the letter and it will be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Interim Executive Director Pease also reported that the new harbormaster boat has been put through the manufacturer's sea trials, and one of the assistant Harbormasters, Larry Goss, and one of the interns, Ben Klossner, will be going up to Ribcraft tomorrow to pick it up.

Commissioner Romano asked Harbormaster Totten to report on his role in rescuing a person who had jumped off the Jamestown Bridge, and he stated that on June 18, he and Shannon Brecher, who is another Harbor intern, were patrolling on the Dutch Harbor side of the island, when they heard a call over the police radio that a person had jumped off the Jamestown Bridge. They responded and were on scene in a few minutes. Harbormaster Totten described how they rescued the person, and the communications with the police and fire departments. The person was transported to a private dock on Seaside Drive, where fire department personnel took the person and transported them to the hospital. Harbormaster Totten was especially thankful to the police and fire departments for their assistance, and also to Ms. Brecher for her assistance. There was some discussion.

Harbormaster Totten also reported that they assisted with the start of the Newport/Bermuda Race, and they patrolled in the area of the fireworks barge for the town fireworks display. They will be assisting in the upcoming Save the Bay swim.

Harbormaster Totten also recognized the Assistant Harbormasters, Larry Goss and Jim Heagney, and the Interns, Shannon Brecher and Ben Klossner. There is a harbormaster on duty 7 days a week, and with the interns, there are usually two staff members on the boat.

V. Year-To-Date Financial Report

Commissioner Romano discussed the overages in the FY 2024 budget, which were due to staffing, as the Executive Director had been the Police Chief and did not draw a salary, and the expenses to repair the Ft. Getty pier. A separate line item has been created for the repairs, and

it will be reimbursed. The other overage in the budget was for channel markers and buoys. The FY 2025 budget started July 1 and goes to June 30, 2025. The FY 2026 budget must be presented to the Town Council, and Commissioners Romano and Alexander will meet to prepare the new budget. There was some discussion.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

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

Commissioner Romano discussed the process for developing the FY 2026 budget. There was some discussion about upcoming repairs at Dutch Harbor and the closure and subsequent repair of the pier at Ft. Wetherill.

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

Chairman Banks 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;

Commissioner Campbell reported that the next meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board will take place in October.

VII. Liaison Reports

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

Commissioner Laman reported the Conservation Commission is trying to get funding to make a portion, if not all, of the Kit Wright Trail at Ft. Getty handicapped accessible. Commissioner Romano asked what the status was of Hull Cove, and Commissioner Laman stated that it is still in litigation, and the grant money that was allocated is in jeopardy of expiring. The commission was attempting to have those funds reallocated so they could be used for the Kit Wright Trail, but there are some conditions that may affect the reallocation. There was some discussion.

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

Councilor White was not in attendance.

VIII. Old Business – None

IX. Correspondence – None

X. New Business

A. Review of Sub-Committee Assignments – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Commissioner Archibald has expressed interest in being assigned to the Facilities Sub-Committee, and Commissioner McCarthy is willing to be reassigned. Commissioner Romano

made a motion to assign Commissioner Archibald to the Facilities Sub-Committee in place of Commissioner McCarthy, and was seconded by Chairman Banks. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

Discussion ensued about the Mooring Implementation Sub-Committee, and Commissioner Campbell stated he thought that it should be a function of the Harbormaster and the Harbor Clerk, as they have the information readily available. There was some discussion, including a question on the status of the kayak rack at Park Dock, which is under construction, and should be ready in a few weeks. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to move the reporting of mooring implementation to the Harbormaster, and it was seconded by Chairman Banks. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

Chairman Banks moved to have Commissioner Laman assigned to the Gould Island Restoration Sub-Committee and was seconded by Commissioner Campbell. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay.

XI. Open Forum – Continued (If Necessary)

Russ Paskoski of Clarkes Village Road addressed an earlier comment regarding funds potentially being reallocated from a Hull Cove project and wanted to know what was supposed to be done there. The project would have improved the access to the cove by installing raised decking but one of the abutting property owners has filed a lawsuit over the right of way access. There was some discussion.

Dave Leonard of Clarkes Village Road has an outhaul at Ft. Getty and asked who would be in charge of cleaning up the area around the outhauls. He stated that there is brush and debris from storms accumulating and asked if someone can clean it up and create better access to the outhauls. There was some discussion.

There being no further business, Commissioner Archibald made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Romano. So voted: 6 aye, 0 nay, and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Attest,


Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk