

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Approved: 1/8/25

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held on Wednesday, December 11, 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.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman
Tom Alexander, Vice-Chairman
Mark Campbell, Commissioner
Jim Archibald, Commissioner
Bob Laman, Commissioner

Absent:

Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner
Sue Romano, Commissioner

Also in Attendance:

Jim Heagney, Executive Director
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk

- II. Public Comment – Preliminary Determination Application for Expansion of an Oyster Farm – CRMC – Benjamin Goetsch**
- A. Application of Bradley Boehringer for Expansion of existing Rocky Rhode Oyster Co. to grow bay scallops and sugar kelp;**

Ben Goetsch from the Coastal Resources Management Council explained the preliminary determination process for an aquaculture application. Bradley Boehringer, the applicant, took over the lease of Walrus and Carpenter Oysters, located on the west side of Jamestown, and has been operating the business for the past year. Mr. Boehringer, who currently operates as Rocky Rhode Oyster Company, has applied to expand his oyster farm from 7.8 acres, by 3.5 acres to the west of the current boundary, for a total of 11.3 acres.

Mr. Boehringer stated the current harvest of his farm is 600,000 oysters, and he is maxed out with the area he currently has. His target is to harvest 1,000,00/year. He wants to focus on oysters but could also grow kelp and scallops in a process called vertical farming, as each species inhabits a different layer of water.

Mr. Boehringer also has an aqua farm in Point Judith Pond, but the water quality in the pond has changed, causing his farm to be closed for weeks at a time. He discussed the process of oyster farming and how he hopes to grow better oysters to bring to market.

There were questions, especially regarding the distance or "buffer zone" between different aquafarms. There was also a question about the hazard to navigation of the equipment to recreational boaters; the concern that there aren't any radar reflectors on the aquafarming equipment; and if radar reflectors are attached to the equipment, how well do they work, including in the fog. There was some discussion.

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

A. November 13, 2024

Chairman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2024 and Commissioner Laman seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: Chairman Banks, aye; Vice-Chairman Alexander, abstain; Commissioner Campbell, aye; Commissioner Archibald, abstain; Commissioner Laman, aye. The motion did not carry and the minutes will be voted on again next month.

IV. Executive Director's Report – J. Heagney

A. TPG East Ferry-Dock/ramp removals and moorings winterization – docks and ramps have been removed and two rows of moorings still must be winterized;

B. TPG Dutch Harbor – All boats are out of the water except for the launch, and the docks have been disassembled and moved to moorings to await removal beginning tomorrow. Commissioner Archibald stated he had observed that it appeared some of the sinkholes had been filled in at Dutch Harbor, and Executive Director Heagney stated Mike Gray of Public Works had his crew fill in the holes, and that the repairs to the bulkhead would happen in early spring. There was some discussion.

C. Progress report on Harbor Management Plan – The edits have been completed and the plan will be forwarded to the Harbormaster and Town Administrator for further review.

D. Harbormaster boats update – There is a leak in one of the pontoons in the old boat. An appointment has been scheduled at New England Inflatables in Warwick for the repair.

Commissioner Archibald stated there were some kayaks and dinghies left on some of the racks, and Executive Director Heagney stated he was going to get the permit numbers and contact the owners for removal.

V. Harbormaster's Report – B. Totten

Harbormaster Totten was not present, and Executive Director Heagney included in his report the topics that Mr. Totten would have discussed.

VI. Year-to-Date Financial Report

Commissioner Romano was not present.

VII. Sub-Committee Reports

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

Vice Chairman Alexander had nothing to report.

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

Chairman Banks and Commissioner Archibald had nothing to report beyond what had been previously discussed about the Dutch Harbor bulkhead and the vessels left on the beach racks.

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

Chairman Banks stated there was nothing new to report.

VIII. Liaison Reports

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

Commissioner Laman stated at the Conservation Commission meeting last night they discussed the Rights of Way program, which had been suspended due to non-compliance of the guidelines. There is still a lot of interest in the program and the Conservation Commission is working to reinstate it. Commissioner Laman is going to talk to the Town Administrator about the revisions to the program, and who has ultimate oversight of the Rights of Way.

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

A new liaison has not yet been appointed by the Town Council.

IX. Old Business – None at this time;

X. Correspondence

A. Email from Carol Cronin regarding location of the Harbormaster Boat in West Ferry;

Chairman Banks made a motion to accept the email from Carol Cronin and was seconded by Commissioner Archibald. So voted: Chairman Banks, aye; Vice-Chairman Alexander, aye; Commissioner Campbell, aye; Commissioner Archibald, aye; Commissioner Laman, aye.

B. Email from Marion Falla regarding Insurance Requirement for Commercial Moorings;

Chairman Banks made a motion to accept the email from Marion Falla and was seconded by Commissioner Archibald. So voted: Chairman Banks, aye; Vice-Chairman Alexander, aye; Commissioner Campbell, aye; Commissioner Archibald, aye; Commissioner Laman, aye.

XI. New Business

A. Sunset Oyster Farm Upweller Request – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Executive Director Heagney stated that there had not been any issues or complaints over the past year about the upweller at Fort Getty that has been operated by Sunset Oyster Farm. Chairman Banks moved to approve the request by Sunset Oyster Farm to continue to operate the upweller and Commissioner Archibald seconded. Commissioner Campbell asked the applicant, Tony Pinheiro, how the upweller was working. There was some discussion. So voted: Chairman Banks, aye; Vice-Chairman Alexander, aye; Commissioner Campbell, aye; Commissioner Archibald, aye, Commissioner Laman, aye.

B. 2025 Mooring Inspector/Installer Applications - Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Commissioner Campbell had questions regarding who was performing the mooring maintenance for the boatyards that were on the list, and there was discussion as to what company the boatyards had hired to subcontract the mooring work. The list will be revised to reflect the subcontractors, who had all applied separately to be an approved mooring inspector/installer. There was more discussion. So voted: Chairman Banks, aye; Vice-Chairman Alexander, aye; Commissioner Campbell, aye, Commissioner Archibald, aye; Commissioner Laman, aye.

XII. Open Forum

A. Scheduled Requests to Address – None

B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address

Chairman Banks stated that this would be his last meeting as he is term-limited, but he has sent a letter to the Town Council to serve another term. The Town Council is meeting next on December 19, and they will vote at that time on Harbor Commission applicants. There was some discussion.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Banks moved to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Archibald. So voted: Chairman Banks aye; Vice Chairman Alexander, aye; Commissioner Campbell, aye; Commissioner Archibald, aye; Commissioner Laman, aye.

Attest:



Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk