

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION**

APPROVED: 2/12/25

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 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.

Present:

Wayne Banks, Chairman
Tom Alexander, Vice-Chairman
Sue Romano, Commissioner
Mark Campbell, Commissioner
Jim Archibald, Commissioner

Absent:

Jessica McCarthy, Commissioner
Bob Laman, Commissioner

Also in Attendance:

Jim Heagney, Executive Director
Bart Totten, Harbormaster
Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk

II. 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 Romano seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: Chairman Banks, aye; Vice-Chairman Alexander, aye; Commissioner Romano, aye; Commissioner Campbell, aye; Commissioner Archibald, aye. The motion passed.

B. December 11, 2024

Chairman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2024 and Commissioner Campbell seconded. There was no discussion. So voted: Chairman Banks, aye; Vice Chairman Alexander, aye; Commissioner Romano, aye; Commissioner Campbell, aye; Commissioner Archibald, aye. The motion passed.

III. Executive Director's Report – J. Heagney

A. Dutch Harbor Status – Executive Director Heagney stated all of the boats are now out of Dutch Harbor and the docks have been removed. Mike Gray and his crew will be working on the bulkhead at Dutch Harbor early in the spring. Commissioner Campbell asked if the railway at TPG Dutch Harbor marina has been fixed, and it has.

B. Kayak Racks – The kayak/dinghy/paddleboard racks have been checked and there are two kayaks left on the rack at Maple Avenue and one at Head's Beach. Notices have been sent to the holdouts. There was some discussion.

C. Harbor Plan and Ordinance Update – Executive Director Heagney met with Town Administrator Mello regarding the proposed changes to the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Mello had some suggestions and proposals, and the final copy is nearing completion. There was some discussion about which version of the Plan is being used for the revisions, and the time spent by Vice-Chairman Alexander and Commission Campbell on the revisions. Executive Director Heagney is also working on the updated Ordinance, but his focus is on getting the Plan submitted and approved for the 2025 season. There was discussion regarding public input into the Plan.

IV. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Totten stated that the leak in the pontoon of the older harbormaster boat has been repaired, and both boats have now been winterized and shrinkwrapped. The shrinkwrap was supplied by a local company and can be recycled when it is removed in the spring. Chairman Banks asked Mr. Totten about the status of a procedures manual for the assistant harbormasters and interns, that he had mentioned a few meetings ago. Mr. Totten stated he is going to work on it over the winter and have it ready at the beginning of the season.

V. Year-to-Date Financial Report

Commissioner Romano had nothing to report.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

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

Commissioner Romano stated that the budget for FY 26 has been sent to the Town Council, and she would like to defer discussion on the impact of a potential discount of beach permit fees to that item under New Business.

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

Commissioner Archibald discussed the work that needs to be done at West Ferry on the bulkhead and filling the sinkholes that have appeared. Executive Director Heagney stated that there were two instances of sinkholes reappearing this past summer and fall at the end of the pier. The Public Works crew repaired the holes the day after their appearance. The area where the sinkholes have appeared is now covered by the floating docks that are out of the water.

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

There was nothing new to report.

VII. Liaison Reports

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

Commissioner Laman was absent.

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

Town Council President Nancy Beye was at the meeting and she stated that the Town Council has not yet appointed a liaison to the Harbor Commission.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

X. New Business

A. Discounted Kayak/Dinghy Rack Permits for Mooring Permit Holders – Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote;

Commissioner Romano made a motion to discuss the new business and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Alexander. Chairman Banks stated he had a mooring at Park Dock for six years and for three years he paid to keep his dinghy on the beach and for three years he didn't, because no one else was paying to keep their dinghy on the beach. He appreciated the new rack at Park Dock because people no longer have to wade through poison ivy or step in waste to get to their dinghy. Commissioner Romano stated that a resident, Michael Pinksaw, brought up at a prior meeting that people who pay for a mooring should not necessarily have to pay for the dinghy dock as well, because no one really had a say in the matter of installing a rack at Park Dock. There was discussion about if rules are changed for one rack, that change should apply for all the racks. What would the financial impact be? Approximately 35 people use a kayak or dinghy to get to their mooring from the racks around town. There was discussion about revenue from the racks, the number of permits issued, and the projected revenue for FY 26 from the racks.

Michael Pinksaw of East Shore Road, addressed the Commission and stated when he first obtained a mooring at Park Dock, he called the Harbor Office to find out how to obtain a beach permit for the location, and was told that the Harbor Office does not issue beach permits at Park Dock, and now he is being told he has to purchase a permit to keep his dinghy on the newly installed rack. There was some discussion, including about use of the rack by fishermen and their families, and possibly relocating the rack north. There was also discussion about weed-whacking the vegetation around the rack and more discussion about potential loss of revenue. Chairman Banks stated the options seem to be to leave the permit fee as is, give a

discount to mooring holders who use their beach permitted vessel to get out to their mooring, or to give a free permit to mooring holders who use their beach permitted vessel to get out to their mooring. A 50% discount would mean a loss of approximately \$1,200 in revenue. Chairman Banks amended his original motion to be to give beach permit holders who use their vessel to get to their mooring a 50% discount on the beach permit fee and it was seconded by Vice-Chairman Alexander. There was more discussion. So voted: Chairman Banks, aye; Vice-Chairman Alexander, aye; Commissioner Romano, aye; Commissioner Campbell, aye; Commissioner Archibald, aye. The motion passed.

XI. Open Forum

A. Scheduled Requests to Address – None at this time;

B. Non-Scheduled Requests to Address

Commissioner Romano asked about the letter submitted last month by Marian Falla regarding insurance requirements and Executive Director Heagney stated she had contacted him and it will be put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Attest,



Joan Rich, Harbor Clerk