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**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Minutes of the October 10, 2018 Meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission  
*Approved: 11/14/2018*

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at the Wood Pile Pier and at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Cain called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM with roll call:

Present:

David Cain, Chairman  
James Heagney, Commissioner  
Eric Lexow, Commissioner  
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner

Absent:

Wayne Banks, Commissioner  
Steven Bois, Commissioner  
William Harsch, Vice-Chairman

Also in attendance:

Chief Mello, Executive Director  
Mark Campbell, Harbormaster  
Kim Devlin, Harbor Clerk  
Conservation Commission Liaison Souza  
Wyatt Brochu, Town Solicitor

**II. Review of East Ferry Touch and Go Dock on Site - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

The Jamestown Harbor Commission visited the Town docks at East Ferry.

**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

**A. Wednesday, September 12, 2018**

Commissioner Wurzbacher moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Lexow seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

**IV. OPEN FORUM**

**A. Scheduled Requests to Address**

There were no Scheduled requests to address.

**B. Non-scheduled Requests to Address- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

There were no Non-Scheduled requests to address.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MELLO'S REPORT- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Executive Director Chief Mello reported that Harbor staff and Town Solicitor Wyatt Brochu met with CRMC staff and council regarding the Zeek's Creek Conservation Zone. CRMC tentatively agreed with the proposal to move the town's 1000' Conservation Zone line to match the state's 500' Conservation Zone line. This change would reduce the number

of moorings affected by the CRMC stipulation that all moorings be moved out of the conservation zone from 13 to 3. Changing the Conservation Zone line will also resolve the appeal of Mr. Museler.

Secondly, out of that meeting we learned that CRMC's stance on riparian property owners who do not have enough water in front of their property to support a mooring are not entitled to a mooring. CRMC suggested that we amend the ordinance to state that riparian moorings must be within the lateral extensions of their property lines. The current existing riparian moorings that do not comply will be grandfathered.

Executive Director Chief Mello reported that he also asked CRMC for clarification on the moorings located in eelgrass beds and how to manage those moorings, because eelgrass migrates. Should we use a water depth or a distance from shore to determine which moorings should be changed to elastometric mooring systems? CRMC will discuss and get back to us.

Executive Director Chief Mello also reported that he has contracted a drone company to create a video for us of all of the waterfront assets so we have a record of their current state. This is useful in the event of a major storm or if anything is damaged we will be able to prove the state of the facilities.

#### **VI. HARBORMASTER REPORT- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Harbormaster Campbell reported that we have one operational boat and that will be pulled out on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The season ends in three weeks. The Freedom is fixed and winterized.

Harbormaster Campbell reported that we sent out 31 letters to permit holders who appeared not to be using their moorings. Three people are relinquishing the moorings. The remainder placed their vessel on the mooring, convinced me that they did use the mooring or were approved for a grace period.

Harbormaster Campbell also reported that there were 4 boat issues on the east side and 4 on the west side. Boats were sinking on the moorings or outhauls and docks. There was one boat accident where a vessel struck buoy 11. A large fender (40'x6') washed up on the west side and it was determined to be Senseco's. They retrieved the buoy.

#### **VII. MARINE DEVELOPMENT FUND BUDGET**

##### **A. 2017/2018**

##### **MDF YTD Budget- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

The budget was not available.

#### **VIII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Budget - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Commissioner Heagney had nothing to report.

##### **B. Facilities - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Commissioner Wurzbacher deferred to the Old Business agenda item.

##### **C. Mooring Implementation - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Cain had nothing to report.

##### **D. Traffic Committee - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Cain had nothing to report.

##### **E. Gould Island Restoration Committee - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Cain reported that Commissioner Bois was appointed chairman of the Gould Island Restoration Committee, not the Jamestown Harbor Commission sub-committee but the state committee.

#### **IX. LIAISON REPORTS**

##### **A. Conservation Commission Liaison- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Conservation Commission Liaison Souza was not in attendance.

#### **X. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. East Ferry Touch and Go Replacement - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Executive Director Chief Mello summarized the presentation he gave at the September Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting. He stated that an amount of \$24,400 has been spent on the project. There are now four options for replacing the floating dock that the Jamestown Harbor Commission will have to choose from, if they decide they want to continue with the project. There is also the option to not replace the dock and whether or not to make the ramp ADA accessible.

Executive Director Chief Mello presented a PowerPoint presentation about the project (attached.)

The four options are:

- 1 – 8'x40' floating dock straight off of the end of the wood pile pier (facing east)
- 2 – 10'x40' floating dock straight off of the end of the wood pile pier (facing east)
- 3 – 8'x40' floating dock angled to the northeast, parallel with the existing floating dock
- 4 – 10'x40' floating dock angled to the northeast, parallel with the existing floating dock

Executive Director Chief Mello informed the Jamestown Harbor Commission that Mr. Munger has sent a letter to the Town Council asking that the touch and go dock not be prioritized and instead the funds should be spent on the town boat ramp at East Ferry.

Executive Director Chief Mello reminded the Jamestown Harbor Commission of the objections and concerns Mr. Munger has about the replacement touch and go being 10' wide. Mr. Munger's preference for the replacement touch and go dock is Option 3, an 8'x40' dock on an angle.

Chairman Cain asked if Executive Director Chief Mello and Harbormaster Campbell have a preference for the dock.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that after personally using both the touch and go docks and the boat ramp the reality is, is that the boat ramp will never be a deep water boat ramp. It is a recreational ramp and we will repair it as that type of ramp. We can do both projects in the next few years.

Harbormaster Campbell stated that he has not received any complaints about the boat ramp, but he has received many inquiries about when the touch and go dock will be replaced.

Commissioner Wurzbacher stated that since we are losing the use of the inner touch and go with the reconfiguration of the docks to accommodate Mr. Munger's new ferry boat, it seems that we should replace the damaged touch and go with a dock that can make up for some of the lost space. It seems worth it to make it a 10' dock based on the location. Commissioner Wurzbacher stated that he is in favor of a 10' wide dock, and if it is ADA accessible, but the important thing is to have a nice platform for boaters that people are comfortable standing on.

Commissioner Lexow asked who we are doing this for, the people that live in Jamestown or people who are visiting. Commissioner Lexow stated that he does not feel that the floating dock needs to be replaced.

Chairman Cain asked if we have an idea of the lifespan of the float.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the expected life of the float is 15 years.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated the use of the ferry dock is controlled by Mr. Munger and Conanicut Marine and they can deny the use of the dock.

Commissioner Wurzbacher stated that if we have purchased the lumber for a 10' dock and there would not be any additional costs associated, it makes sense to construct a 10' wide dock.

Chairman Cain stated that he agrees with Commissioner Wurzbacher; it is safer to have a 10' dock and it provides a better accommodation for visiting yachts, an 8' dock is really restrictive.

Commissioner Wurzbacher moved to approve Option 4 with a 10'x40' dock on an angle for the replacement of the East Ferry touch and go; Chairman Cain seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Executive Director Chief Mello mentioned that the rules for the docks are set by the Jamestown Harbor Commission and it would be a good idea if the Jamestown Harbor Commission put some thought into the use of the dock, for example if they would want to allow fishing.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he will revise the rule book and bring it back to the Jamestown Harbor Commission for approval. Executive Director Chief Mello will also ask the Jamestown Harbor Commission to decide on if the dock should be handicapped accessible once he has the specs and also what to do with the damaged dock.

**B. Appeal – Mr. Chris Museler; re: Mooring location; 5/8/2018 – Review, discussion and/or potential vote;  
Continued from September 12, 2018**

Mr. Quentin Anthony requested that the Jamestown Harbor Commission continue Mr. Museler's appeal due to an illness on his part.

The item was continued until an unspecified time when a special meeting can be arranged.

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. Appeal – Ms. Carolyn Sears, Re: Second grace period denial; Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Appeal – Ms. Carolyn Sears, Re: Second grace period denial; Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Ms. Sears stated that she had every intention of using the boat and mooring this season, but health issues and a damaged rudder prevented that from happening. Ms. Sears stated that she fully intends to use the mooring next year.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that Ms. Sears was issued a Grace Period in 2013 and in 2016 and the Harbormaster cannot issue an additional Grace Period. Executive Director Chief Mello stated that Ms. Sears paid her permit fee on time, so it seems she had every intention of using her mooring.

A discussion ensued.

Chairman Cain moved to approve the appeal; Commissioner Lexow seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

**XIII. OPEN FORUM – CONTINUED- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

There was no Open Forum discussions continued.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Cain moved to adjourn at 7:41 PM, Commissioner Heagney seconded. So voted; (4 ayes, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Devlin  
Jamestown Harbor Clerk