JAMESTOWN HARBOR OFFICE

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JAMESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND 02835

TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
HARBOR COMMISSION

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Minutes of the March 14, 2012 Jamestown Harbor Commission Meeting
Approved: 4/11/2012

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Tuesday, March 14, 2012 at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

Chairman deAngeli called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with roll call:

Present:
Michael deAngeli, Chairman
David Cain, Commissioner
Chris Brown, Commissioner
Ed McGuirl, Commissioner
Patrick Bolger, Commissioner
Jake Farrell, Commissioner

Absent:
Larry Eichler, Commissioner
George Souza, Conservation Commission Liaison

Also in attendance:
Chief Edward Mello, Executive Director
Bob Bowen, Town Council Liaison
Kimberly Devlin, Harbor Clerk & Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 8, 2012

Chairman deAngeli moved to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2012 Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting, Commissioner Cain seconded. So voted (4 ayes, 0 nays)

February 29, 2012

Commissioner Brown moved to accept the minutes of the February 29, 2012 Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting, Commissioner Cain seconded. So voted (4 ayes, 0 nays)

CONSENT AGENDA

No Consent Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

OPEN FORUM

Scheduled Requests to Address

No Scheduled requests to address.

Non-scheduled Requests to Address

Donald Richardson questioned the commission about why the mooring fees are being used on infrastructure costs.

Chairman deAngeli responded that the Town Council wants it to be that way, and the commission has expressed their opposition.

Town Council Liaison Bowen stated that not all of the mooring fees go to infrastructure, that the lease money, which is taxpayer money, is also used for infrastructure.

Donald Richardson also stated that he doesn't see why it is necessary for police to accompany the harbormaster on the

boat, and that mooring fees shouldn't be used for that either.

Executive Director Mello pointed out that the police accompaniment is not for enforcement, but as a community outreach measure. The police are physically disconnected from the boating community, and this is an effort to bridge that gap.

Commissioner Farrell stated that, according to the Public Trust Doctrine, the federal government grants states, and individual communities, the authority to manage the waters adjacent to their town.

Executive Director Mello pointed out that in the 2012-2013 FY budget adopted by the town, the issue of mooring fees being used for infrastructure has been addressed. There is no line item transferring money from operating expenses to infrastructure expenses.

Town Council Liaison Bowen stated that any remaining balance of funds is transferred into a capital reserve account. The town is also using $500K from the town contingency fund for harbor projects. Also, the police presence on the harbormaster boat is a trial and is on the town council agenda for early April, before it goes forward.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MELLO'S REPORT

Executive Director Mello reported that the bid for the new Ribcraft motor was due last Friday, but the town had to reject the bids and re-advertise, with the intent on having the new motor solidified in the next few weeks. Executive Director Mello stated he would prepare a bid summary.

MARINE DEVELOPMENT FUND BUDGET

2011/2012 MDF YTD Budget

The Marine Development Fund was presented to the Jamestown Harbor Commission.

HARBOR CLERK REPORT

Harbor Clerk Devlin reported everything is on track for the season, and the permit renewals have been sent out.

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning Commission Liaison

Planning Commission Liaison seat is vacant.

Town Council Liaison

Town Council liaison Bowen reported the Town Council approved the FY 2012-2013 Harbor budget.

Conservation Commission Liaison

Conservation Commission Liaison Sousa was absent.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Budget

Commissioner Brown had nothing to report.

Facilities

Commissioner Eichler was absent.

Sam Paterson presented the Jamestown Harbor Commission with a video survey of the pilings at the Ft. Getty and West Ferry outhauls. He recommended replacing 5 of the 12 pilings.

Public Works Director, Mike Gray, stated that the cable should be raised by one or two feet.

Public Works Director, Mike Gray, also stated that the Ft. Getty pier is in good condition; however, the fasteners are in need of repair and Ramone is working on it.

A discussion on the outhaul system ensued. It was decided that all of the pilings would be replaced and set back farther, so the cable will sit higher.
Mike Gray stated he will put a bid out for the Ft. Getty outhaul replacement, and to have them set back farther and the pilings a foot or two higher.

Mooring Implementation

Commissioner Cain had nothing to report.

Harbor Management Ordinance / Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan

Chairman deAngeli had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

Commissioner Cain moved to nominate Chairman deAngeli as Chairman, Commissioner Brown seconded. So voted (6 ayes, 0 nays).

Chairman deAngeli moved to nominate Commissioner Cain as Vice-Chairman of the Jamestown Harbor Commission, Commissioner Brown seconded. So voted (6 ayes, 0 nays).

NEW BUSINESS

A. Additional Ferry service form Jamestown to Newport

Chairman deAngeli moved to move up item 14(G), Commissioner Brown seconded. So voted (6 ayes, 0 nays).

Captain Addison Closson presented the commission with information regarding a ferry service he would like to commence between Newport and Jamestown. Captain Closson stated he has refurbished an old, 65 foot, wooden shrimp boat to accommodate wheelchairs and handicapped persons more easily and comfortably than the other options currently available to the disabled. The only current service available to handicapped individuals required people in a wheelchair to be picked up by two people, from the dock, and set onto the boat. Also, the small size of the ferry makes people uncomfortable.

Captain Closson stated he has a "Certificate of Public Need," which acknowledges the unmet need to have water transportation for the disabled. Captain Closson is requesting permission to land in Jamestown for approximately ten minutes for boarding of passengers.

A discussion on the logistics of the ferry stopping in Jamestown ensued. Ideas discussed included the outer side of the new touch and go docks on the north side of the wood pile pier and the steel pier.

Captain Closson stated that there is a financial opportunity for the town, as there are millions of dollars in grant money being awarded, byt the Department of Transportation, for the building of handicapped accessible facilities. If the town would be willing to consider new construction, there is millions of dollars in federal grant money available.

Commissioner Bolger stated that about ten years ago someone approached the town with the same idea in mind, and the town rejected the proposal. Commissioner Bolger suggests the Jamestown Harbor Commission ask the town council for guidance on this issue.

Town Council Liaison Bowen agreed that this is an issue for the council.

Chairman deAngeli moved to recommend forwarding this to the town council, noting there are issues that need to be worked out, Commissioner Cain seconded. So voted (5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention).

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Heather Lopes, Assistant Clerk; re: Harbor Commission – Harbor Waters Position (Jake Farrell); dated: 2-27-12
B. Heather Lopes, Assistant Clerk; re: Harbor Commission – Coastal Waters Position (Patrick Bolger); dated: 3-7-12
C. Department of the Army; General Permit, State of Rhode Island
D. US Army Corps of Engineers; Public Notice; dated: 2-28-12
E. East Providence and Barrington 3rd Annual Boating Safety Day on May 19; dated: 3-2-12
F. Tiverton Harbor Patrol and Fire Dept.; re: live marine flare testing night on June 9
G. Capt. Addison Closson; Additional ferry service from Newport to Jamestown; 3-9-12

Commissioner Brown moved to accept Correspondence items 14(A-G), Chairman deAngeli seconded. So voted (6 ayes, 0 nays).

Open Forum – Continued

Town Engineer Mike Gray stated that the Ft. Getty outhaul piling replacement will probably be a fall project, due to the permitting and bid process, and so the work isn't being done during the height of boating season.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bolger moved to adjourn at 8:27 PM, Chairman deAngeli seconded. So voted; 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Devlin
Harbor Clerk