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**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
HARBOR COMMISSION**

Minutes of the December 13, 2017 Meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission  
*Approved: 1/10/2018*

A meeting of the Jamestown Harbor Commission (JHC) was held Wednesday, December 13, 2017 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 7:00 PM with roll call:

Present:

David Cain, Chairman  
William Harsch, Vice-Chairman  
Wayne Banks, Commissioner  
Dan Wurzbacher, Commissioner

Absent:

James Heagney, Commissioner  
Clifford Kurz, Commissioner

Also in attendance:

Chief Mello, Executive Director  
Andy Nota, Town Administrator  
Mark Campbell, Harbormaster  
Kim Devlin, Harbor Clerk

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

**A. Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

Vice-Chairman Harsch moved to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2017 Jamestown Harbor Commission meeting; Commissioner Wurzbacher seconded. So voted; 3 ayes, 0 nays (1 abstention (Cain)).

**III. 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.

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

Executive Director Chief Mello reported that the Town Council approved the purchase of a new Harbormaster vehicle and the truck was ordered today.

Executive Director Chief Mello also reported to the commission that he met with Mr. Ryan Marsh regarding a water quality project Mr. Marsh is working on near Ft. Getty. We have an informal agreement with Mr. Marsh to allow him to install data collection equipment on the dock and have asked Mr. Marsh for an agreement holding the town harmless.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that we will begin working on the budget to present to the Jamestown Harbor Commission at the January meeting and asked for a volunteer from the commission to meet with him to review the budget before it is presented to the commission. Chairman Cain volunteered.

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

Harbormaster Campbell had nothing to report but thanked the Jamestown Harbor Commission and the Town Council for approving the purchase of a new Harbormaster truck.

**VI. MARINE DEVELOPMENT FUND BUDGET**

**A. 2017/2018**

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

There was no budget update to present to the Jamestown Harbor Commission.

**VII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Commissioner Kurz was absent.

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

Commissioner Banks had nothing to report.

**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.

**VIII. LIAISON REPORTS**

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

Conservation Commission Liaison Souza had nothing to report.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

There were no Old Business items to discuss.

**X. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to review.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS- Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

**A. Conanicut Marine improvement proposal at East Ferry; Plat 9 Lot 355, property of the Town of Jamestown Review and Recommendation to the Town Council related to the reconfiguration of the ferry access dockage, including construction of a new 130' floating dock to replace the existing 30' dock - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Mr. Christian Infantolino addressed the commission on behalf of Mr. Bill Munger and Conanicut Marine Services regarding proposed plans East Ferry and handed out copies of the proposed plan. Mr. Infantolino stated that he is asking the Jamestown Harbor Commission to pass along a recommendation on the plan, either supporting or opposing the plan to the Town Council and Mr. Andy Nota, Town Administrator.

The first phase of the proposed plan involves replacing the fuel tanks, which were installed in 1977, and relocating the fuel dock to the north side of the steel pier. Another component of phase one of the proposed plan is to shift the finger docks farther south and to increase the length of the docks.

Executive Director Chief Mello requested more detailed dimensions between where the Coastal Queen vessel is berthed and the northeast facing touch and go docks.

Mr. Munger shifted the discussion to phase two of the proposed project, which includes the reconfiguration of the inboard touch and go dock to support the addition of a privately owned 130' dock to be used as a ferry berth. The new ferry that is owned and operated by Conanicut Marine is being outfitted to be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) complaint. Mr. Munger is proposing the current touch and go dock be replaced by a concrete ADA complaint touch and go dock to allow access to the new ADA complaint ferry.

Mr. Munger stated the goal is to improve wheelchair access in Jamestown and that he has a federal grant to fund the project and to bring Jamestown up to ADA standards. The new concrete dock would be more stable and have a longer and wider gangway.

A discussion on the touch and go dock reconfiguration ensued.

Executive Director Chief Mello asked the Jamestown Harbor Commission to keep in mind that what Mr. Munger is proposing is to reconfigure and replace the town dock with a concrete float.

Commissioner Wurzbacher asked why the proposed reconfiguration of the town dock has to dog-leg.

Mr. Munger stated that the new ferry is stern loading so that is where the ferry will back in to load passengers.

Executive Director Chief Mello clarified that the angled space of the reconfigured and rebuilt touch and go dock will be town property and the 130' new dock along the wood pile pier will be private.

Town Administrator Andy Nota stated that the wood pile pier is town property and in the Harbor Management Ordinance and Comprehensive Harbor Management Plan it is stated that commercial fishing will be the priority use of the pier. If the Jamestown Harbor Commission is in support of the plan to dedicate the south side of the wood pile pier to a ferry dock the ordinance and plan will need to be revised to include the reprioritization of that space.

Mr. Infantolino stated that there are no commercial or recreational vessels that are being denied dock space due to the proposed dock addition.

Mr. Munger stated that 40 years ago the entire wood pile pier was filled with fishing vessels, but that now there are no commercial fishing vessels that live their year round. There may be some transient fishing vessels that come and go, but they come in with their catch and when it moves out of the area, so does the vessel.

Commissioner Wurzbacher stated that it seems pretty clear that there will not be any push back from commercial fishermen.

Chairman Cain stated that he would like to have some time to review the plan and digest all of the information presented to the commission before making a decision or recommendation to the council and the town administrator.

A discussion on the time frame of the proposed project ensued.

Chairman Cain asked Harbormaster Campbell if there are any issues that he sees with the proposal.

Harbormaster Campbell stated that the channel between the finger dock and the wood pile pier will be narrowed and some boats may have trouble accessing their slips. Harbormaster Campbell also stated that there will be a reduction of public touch and go space.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that the addition of the new ferry dock would eliminate the need for the ferry to use the public touch and go docks at the end of the wood pile pier for passenger transport, and Chief wondered about the ownership and maintenance of the new touch and go dock.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he would like to see a more detailed plan for the area so everyone can have a better idea of the proposed configuration and dimensions, and also a plan for signage at the docks would be helpful.

Mr. Infantolino and Mr. Munger agreed to provide the additional information requested.

Vice-Chairman Harsch moved to continue the item until the next meeting, Commissioner Wurzbacher seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays.

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

There was no continued open forum.

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

Commissioner Wurzbacher moved to adjourn at 8:30 PM, Commissioner Banks seconded. So voted; (4 ayes, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Devlin  
Jamestown Harbor Clerk