



JAMESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: J. Antonello, B. Lundy, S. Shim Gorelick, A. Kuhn-Hines, Leo Orsi, R. Shein, and G. Souza

I. Roll Call and Call to Order: 6:45 pm

II. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2022, **Motion to approve Meeting minutes 1st Barbara Lundy, 2nd Susan Shim Gorelick all in favor - motion passed.**

III. OPEN FORUM:

- A) Scheduled request to address: Bob Plain, Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee. Bob Plain spoke to the JCC in support of the 91 Carr Lane (Plat 4, Lot 52) project proposal with Church Community Housing Corporation (CCHC). Bob described the various environmental concerns and how the CCHC has responded to and addressed these environmental concerns with engineered controls such as the denitrification GeoMat septic system, natural groundwater infiltration rain gardens, pervious surface driveways, and locating the septic systems the farthest away from the protected 5.5 acres of wetlands to the south of the 1.35-acre housing lot. Bob Plain also noted that the plans call for the two new affordable housing units include small footprint structures with Zero Energy goals (super-insulated, solar panels). Bob Plain also described how the project proposal is consistent with the JTN Comprehensive plan for water resource protection and affordable housing and that the plan follows the intent of the rural residential zoning ordinance (RR-200) by protecting the sub-divided 5.5 acres of wetlands directly south of the 1.35 acres (Plat 4, Lot 52). Bob Plain also discussed how Jamestown needs to address its affordable housing deficit and that this proposal is one step in fulfilling that objective.
- B) Non-scheduled request to address: Town Councilor, Mary Meagher addressed the JCC in support of the 91 Carr Lane (Plat 4, Lot 52) project proposal with CCHC. Mary Meagher noted that the new application with the current plan reduced the number of units from 6 to 3 units on the 1.35 acres. Mary Meagher noted that the proposal includes a plan for building two net Zero Energy affordable housing units with GeoMat advanced denitrification septic systems. Mary Meagher also noted that the town had secured funding from RIDEM for permanent protection of the 5.5 wetland acres which were subdivided from the original 6.9-acre plot sold to the town by the Rafferty family. Mary Meagher mentioned that these affordable housing units would allow families with low-moderate incomes afford to live in Jamestown. Mary Meagher described how the CCHC would be responsible for monitoring the properties and assuring the engineered controls such as the septic systems would be maintained since the land the houses will be on will be leased land- the CCHC would own the land.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

- A) Letter from Mariner Tower-a reply to email from Leo Orsi-requesting more information about their cell tower application to the Town of Jamestown. Joe Cannon, President of the Jamestown Shores Association (JSA) mentioned that he was interested in learning more about the Mariner Cell Tower proposal.

V. CRMC, RIDEM AND TOWN OF JAMESTOWN ORDINANCE REVIEW

- A) CRMC: April 2022 calendar: http://www.crmc.ri.gov/calendars/2022_04.html

VI. Old Business & Committee Reports:

- A) Rights of Way/Parks/Greenways & Public Access: Land Protection and Stewardship:
The JCC tabled discussion regarding the 91 Carr Lane project proposal and planned to set a Special Meeting date so that the CCHC could present the project proposal directly to the JCC. The JCC discussed final plans for the Mackerel Cove dune restoration-replanting dune plants on Earth Day weekend (April 23, 2022). The JCC would focus on planting American beachgrass which is available at Cape Cod Organics (Barnstable, MA). The JCC discussed coordination and logistics with the Town Recreation Department on the timing of dune fencing replacement. The JCC discussed reaching out to a variety of volunteer groups across the island to help with the planting on April 23rd (e.g., Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation, Teen Center, Girl Scouts, Taylor Point, etc.). The planting will be on the same day as Earth Day cleanup (April 23, 2022). The JCC will advertise in the JTN Press and on the Clean Ocean Access and Save the Bay event calendars. The JCC discussed the updates on the JTN Friends of ROWs proposal to partner with the CRMC Adopt-An-Access- MOU with CRMC, Town of Jamestown, and the JCC. At the last Town Council meeting the MOU was discussed and the town council and town solicitor decided that more review was necessary-as the JTN Friends of ROWs is not an entity that has been formally recognized or established (e.g., it is not a 501-c entity). The town solicitor is looking into the language of the MOU, and the JTN Friends of ROWs will look into establishing itself as a 501-c3 nonprofit registered with the state or some other formal entity, so that the Town could consider the proposal.
- B) Barbara Lundy reported that there have been no new updates on the discussions she has had with local Jamestown professional graphic designers with GIS skills (Mary Hutchinson and Darcy Magratten) about updating, designing, and producing a revised Conanicut Island Trails Guide (adding in new trails: Godena Farm, Parker Farm, etc.). There was some discussion that the South Pond trail will not be included in the revised trail maps- as it is a very muddy-unmaintained trail and crosses private property. Barbara will continue communicating with these graphic designers to explore options and update the JCC as details develop.
- C) Susan Shim Gorelick update the JCC on the “Rhody Grows Hope” innovative “upcycling” program initiated by the Coalition Center for Environmental Sustainability: <https://www.cc4es.org/rhody-grows-hope/>. Susan reported that the Baptist Church, the JTN Library, the JAC, and McQuades were willing to have drop off bins located at their places to encourage local support and to implement the Rhody Grows Hope container gardening project that inspires and supports growing food for food security, sovereignty, and justice. Susan will continue exploring other convenient drop off locations (CISF, Community Farm, etc.) so that islanders can contribute to the project by upcycling food containers to be used for growing vegetables, etc. Susan is also exploring upcycling old sail material to create drop off containers made from old sail material. The JCC continued discussing the coordination of future initiatives and

community-wide collaborative coordination for environmental education with other JTN groups: e.g., Sustainable Jamestown, JAC, Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation, Taylor Point Restoration Association, JTN Friends of ROWs, etc. (Susan Shim Gorelick, JCC) <https://www.cc4es.org/>. The JCC will plan to coordinate a meeting with the other environmental groups working across Jamestown to discuss setting up a website supported by the Town. Education outreach initiatives could include water conservation, eco-friendly yard care, feeding wildlife, invasive plant control, dog waste/watershed protection; stormwater protection; coastal resiliency; community composting, etc.

- D) Harbor Management Commission-George Souza and Leo Orsi provided an update on how the HMC is discussing updates (adding/reducing moorings at different locations) to their Harbor Management Plan which is due in 2023 (CRMC/state mandates that management Plans be updated every 5 years).
- E) Tree Committee (G. Souza). George Souza and Barbara Lundy reported that the Tree Committee is planning to continue restoring/cleaning up the Town Tree Nursery/Inventory located on a plot next to the Jamestown Community Farm. Barbara Lundy will continue discussing and coordinating with the Tree committee about the Town Tree trail map that is being developed-to see if the Tree trail will be added to the revised JCC Island Trail Guide.
- F) Taylor Point Restoration Association (G. Souza). The TPRA have continued their every other Saturday clean up events (weather dependent) and are busy removing and reducing invasive species (greenbrier) near the black cherry woodlands at Taylor Point.
- G) Gould Island Restoration- Leo Orsi provided an update on the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) restoration on Gould Island- extensive restoration work has been done over the fall/winter/spring-the Army Corp has completed removal of some hazards on Gould Island: Torpedo building, fire station, degaussing station, underground tanks, southern pier facility. The ACOE has collected soil samples around the island and will analyze the data, and plan for a Feasibility Study to conduct additional activities in Fall 2023. The feasibility study will produce options for further activities during 2024.

A) NEW BUSINESS

- A) The next JCC meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

B) ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn – 8:10 PM –Motion to adjourn Joyce Antoniello 1st, Barbara Lundy 2nd, all in favor-motion passed

Respectfully submitted by Anne Kuhn-Hines