



Town of South Kingstown Waterfront Advisory Commission

Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM
The Neighborhood Guild
325 Columbia St., Peace Dale, RI
www.southkingstownri.gov

- Michael Sherry, Chairman
- Connor Duckworth
- Joseph Nuzzolillo
- Samuel Grimley
- Barry Gross
- Nathaniel Merrill
- Sara Mariani

A. Call to Order:

Chairman Michael Sherry called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Neighborhood Guild.

B. Roll Call:

Members present: Michael Sherry, Connor Duckworth, Sara Mariani, Nathaniel Merrill

Members absent: Samuel Grimley, Barry Gross, Joseph Nuzzolillo

Staff present: Michael Stach, Harbormaster / NRO

C. Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve November 6, 2025 minutes by Nate Merrill, seconded by Connor Duckworth. Motion passed 4-0

1. November 6, 2025

D. Correspondence & Public Comment:

none

E. Old Business:

1. Harbor Management Plan Update

Submitted to CRMC on April 6, 2023. Waiting for the approval of RIDEM to issue a Water Quality Certificate. Waiting for approval from CRMC.

HMP Review Chronology

4/6/2023 HMP submitted electronically to Kevin Cute at CRMC via email of FTP link to proposed plan.

6/6/2023 Town follow-up with Kevin Cute at CRMC on ETA for a decision on the HMP.

6/12/2023 DEM date stamp on original draft HMP (*from CRMC?*)

6/13/2023 Emails with Kevin Cute at CRMC re:

Completed CRMC review of HMP with comments

Requirement for WQC review by DEM8/___/2023 WQC Application submitted to DEM

8/30/2023 Revised HMP submitted to Kevin Cute at CRMC via email of FTP link with changes in response to 6/13/2023 CRMC comments.

10/30/2024 DEM – First unacceptable response to review of HMP for WQC

1/16/2025 SK written response to 10/30/2024 DEM letter, with FTP link to revised HMP

6/6/2025 1/16/2025 materials uploaded to new DEM permit portal

7/9/2025 DEM review of HMP received by email from Rebecca Russell

8/6/2025 Revised HMP submitted to DEM permit portal in response to 7/9/2025 comments

10/21/2025 DEM review of HMP received by email from Chuck Horbert

Matter forwarded to town legal counsel for discussion with DEM

2. Development of Online GIS Based Map Showing South Kingstown Rights of Way to Shore

A new GIS Coordinator was hired in the Planning Department. Discussions are currently underway with staff to determine path forward to develop this project.

3. Public Right-of Way Access at Locations 10 and 11. Re: Boats and Waterways Ordinance 4-14: Rights-of-Way to the Water – Boat Storage

- PA Site 10: Washington Street, Location: Matunuck, Water Area: Segar Cove, Assessor's Plat: 87-4, Recorded Plat: LE34 / 78
- PA Site 11: Lake Avenue, Location: Matunuck, Water Area: Segar Cove, Assessor's Plat: 87-4, Recorded Plats: LE33 / 416, PB6 / 436, and PB7 / 487

Awaiting approval from CRMC of the submitted buffer zone management site plan which includes storm water management, invasives management with native plant replanting and kayak rack construction and installation. SKHS CTE program is no longer interested in building the racks. The Town Facilities Department will construct them. Nate Merrill and Connor Duckworth discussed height considerations for the upper rack.

4. Boats and Waterways Ordinance Revisions / Updates

Nate Merrill discussed the working document on ordinance updates. Members will need to recommend a fee structure to the Town Council for the transient moorings. Connor Duckworth discusses the current mooring fee structure last updated around 2008. Total revenue. Mike Sherry discusses the cost of operation of the mooring program. Software, staff etc. Discussion ensues about discussion at the next meeting if the workload allows.

5. Coastal Road and Public Right-of Way to the Water Survey and Monumentation; Charlestown Beach Road Survey Status

A draft was provided to members of the list of roads and ROWs to be put out to bid. The Department of Public Services is currently reviewing with the Procurement Administrator to advertise the bid. Discussion ensued. Discussion about the discovery of a dune walkover structure built entirely on the town parcel across from 964 Charlestown Beach Rd. Building Official and CRMC were notified.

6. Expansion of Parking Lot at Marina Park West Lot to Accommodate Increased Seasonal Activity

Notified that town staff would not have the time to complete this work. MPA vendors have been solicited to quote the project. Discussion ensued.

7. Marina Park / Town Farm Park Master Plan w/Connectivity to Downtown Wakefield

Town Council CIP funding of \$65k was allocated toward a master plan for Marina Park and Town Farm Park beginning July 1, 2026.

8. Formerly Leased Docks Along Saugatucket River Returning to Town Operations

Discussion on the docks along the river between Salt Pond Rd. and Route 1 returning to town control beginning July 1, 2027. Funding proposed next FY to build docks. The master plan should also contemplate this.

F. New Business:

1. Budget: Harbormaster / NRO Adopted FY2026-27 – FY 2031-32 CIP; Proposed FY 2026-2027 Operating Budget

Discussion on current budget process.

Motion to support the 2026 '27 - 2031 '32 CIP for the Harbormaster / NRO.

2. Petition to Town Council for Street Abandonment – 2 Green Hill Avenue (Discussed at 1/26/26 Town Council Regular Session)

Town Council has received a petition for abandonment of a town ROW at 2 Green Hill Ave from the property owner. The appearance is that it is the property driveway when it is actually a town road. Originally, 4 separate lots abutted this, but they were merged into one lot. The Town Council did not move the petition to a public hearing.

Nate Merrill discussed a possible opportunity for a "land swap" of equal square footage to gain more land area adjacent to the current road surface for parking and turn around space not currently available and make the area more accessible for the public.

Currently, parking is prohibited on Green Hill Ave.

3. Development of Indian Lake Management Plan (Kick Off Meeting 1/14/26, Grant Funded)

The town received a grant through RIDEM to develop a lake management plan. The kickoff meeting was recently held.

4. Planned Development of a Saugatucket River Watershed Plan by RIDEM

RIDEM is planning in the near future to develop a watershed plan for the Saugatucket River.

G. Harbormaster's Report:

1. Update on New Patrol/Response Boat Construction by SAFE Boats International (photos as of 1/13/26)
The project is currently mid-way through the build. Fabrication completed. Now moves on to finish and rigging.

Updates on construction and photos of the new patrol boat were provided.

2. Hydrilla
 - a. Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Grant Update for Worden Pond Education Project
 - b. Development of Friends of Worden Pond 501c3 Organization (wordenpondfriends@gmail.com)
 - c. 2025 Indian Lake Hydrilla Treatment and Survey Report from Pond and Lakes Connection (vendor)

Update on hydrilla efforts at Worden Pond:

Kiosk constructed from W&S grant funds. Working on mailers and sign.

New group established with surrounding homeowners is meeting regularly and working on setting up a 501c3 save the lake organization.

Discussion on Indian Lake treatment 2025 and 2026 funded by town and 2027 with a SNEP grant.

3. Jet Dock Installation
Jet Dock Operation Video: https://youtu.be/FT-S20qiWyU?si=v_SsghGIqVd9zzik

Jet Dock currently in a slip at Stone Cove Marina because Grove Point Marinas dba Ram Point Marina would not allow the town to put it in the town slip allocated for the town boat. It will be moved over in the spring when the boat arrives.

4. Status Update on New Slip Assignment for New Patrol/Response Boat at Ram Point Marina

After lengthy waiting and negotiation, at the end of December, Ram Point has assigned 2 new slips to the town on the Main Dock as per the lease.

5. Marina Bay Marina CRMC Violation Update/Resolution

Marina Bay has resolved the CRMC violation of unpermitted docks constructed in the federal anchorage. Six total floats

were removed, for a total of 12 slips. Marina Bay was also over their permitted number of slips of 48 and had 60. The additional docks left in the marina that are unpermitted will be required to be updated in revised draws and plans.

6. Update on Reconstruction of RIDEM Narrow River Boat Ramp @ Mitchell and Pollock Ave Related Deed Issues

Issues with the deed still remain. Narrow River Preservation Association has done some legal work and provided it to RIDEM to aid in this. DEM also does not have adequate funding for this project currently.

7. Ram Point Marina
 - a. 2/1/26 fire in boat shed /shop
 - b. Planned updates to marina, CRMC permitting issued
 - c. Unauthorized access incident on current patrol boat @ Ram Point Marina

Ram Point had a fire on February 1 in one of the boat sheds. There was also some damage to surrounding boats. The Brownell trailer used to launch and haul boats was destroyed in the fire.

Planned updates include a new mast storage rack, shade structure next to the bathroom, finishing installing aluminum gangways, and repairing a water leak next to the bathroom building.

Discussion of unauthorized access on the patrol boat at the marina while security cameras were down. Police report filed.

8. Webcam Coastal Observation System (WebCOOS), South Kingstown Town Beach:
<https://webcoos.org/cameras/southkingstown/>

Information was forwarded about the URI coastal research camera installed at the town beach.

H. Next Meeting:

1. March 5, 2026

I. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Nate Merrill at 8:32pm. Seconded by Connor Duckworth. Passed 4-0

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN



WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thursday, November 6, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Neighborhood Guild

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Neighborhood Guild.

2. Roll Call

Present: J. Nuzzolillo, B. Gross, N. Merrill, M. Sherry, S. Grimley, S. Mariani, C. Duckworth

Absent:

Staff present: M. Stach Staff Absent:

Guests:

3. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve October 2, 2025 meeting minutes by B. Gross and seconded by C. Duckworth.

The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

4. Correspondence and Public Comment

A. Suspension of USCG Proposed Aids to Navigation Changes in the Northeast.

M. Stach reports that USCG has suspended the proposal to remove navigational aids based of the public input received.

B. Old Business

A. Marina Park Boat Ramp Project – Status Report

M. Stach reported that following the removal of the pile of the stone in the water at the end of the ramp, the boat ramp project is complete.

B. Harbor Management Plan Update

After back and forth with RIDEM on the Water Quality Certificate, the Town has finalized changes that are pertinent to the WQC at the request of RIDEM. CRMC has not indicated there are any other issues with the plan as submitted. Awaiting approval.

C. Development of Online GIS Based Map Showing SK Rights of Way to Shore

M. Stach reported that the Town Planning Department has undergone personnel changes and the GIS position has been filled by a new employee. M. Stach will check with Planning to reengage on this project.

D. Public Right-of Way Access at Locations 10 and 11. Re: Boats and Waterways Ordinance 4-14: Rights-of-Way to the Water – Boat Storage

PA Site 10: Washington Street, Location: Matunuck, Water Area: Segar Cove, Assessor's Plat: 87-4, Recorded Plat: LE34 / 78

PA Site 11: Lake Avenue, Location: Matunuck, Water Area: Segar Cove, Assessor's Plat: 87-4, Recorded Plats: LE33 / 416, PB6 / 436, and PB7 / 487

M. Stach reported that CRMC permit in place to work on eradicating knotweed on site. Site plan being developed per CRMC for stormwater management structures and native plantings to replace knotweed. SKHS CTE program no longer interested building the racks.

Talking with the Facilities Department to step in to build them. Waiting on finalizing of software to allow registration by the public.

E. Boats and Waterways Ordinance Revisions

Members are reviewing the Boat and Waterways Ordinance to discuss any changes that may need to be proposed. Discussion to schedule a work session for December 4, 2025.

F. Coastal Road and Public Right-of Way to the Water Survey and Monumentation; Charlestown Beach Road Survey Status

Plans are underway to have bid documents prepared so that newly allocated capital funding for the fiscal year can be utilized to complete this project. The Tax Assessor's Office and GIS Department have completed documents that cross references older data with current data to ensure any possible public land is included in the bid documents.

G. Proposal to Expand Parking Lot at Marina Park West Lot to Accommodate Increased Seasonal Activity

Town staff continuing to work on plans to implement the plan as discussed in memo and previous meetings.

H. Marina Park / Town Farm Park Master Plan w/Connectivity to Downtown Wakefield

Funding over the next three years has been proposed in this year's budget to move this project forward.

I. Docks Along Park Green Space along Saugatucket River reverting to Town 7/1/27

Ram Point Riparian Lease Docks from Salt Pond Rd north will be reverting to the town. Discussion on how to move forward with area once back under town operations.

6. New Business

A. Waterfront Advisory Commission Yearly Notice of Meetings - Calendar 2026

Discussion on changing the calendar. Traditionally Commission does not meet in August and December. Those two months can conflict with holidays. Members propose switching the off months to January and July. S. Grimley made a motion to switch the current no meeting in August to no meeting in July starting in 2026, and the current no meeting in December to be switched to no meeting in January starting in 2026. Second, by N. Merrill. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Harbormaster's Report

M. Stach reported:

- Update on the Jet Dock for the new boat. Install scheduled for November 17th. Currently Ram Point has not given a new slip assignment for the new boat/Jet Dock.
- New boat construction has begun.
- Narrow River Boat Ramp update. NRPA has provided RIDEM information on the plat and successive heirs on the property in question.
- Marina Bay working through the CRMC violation of unpermitted docks.
- RIDEM received a SNEP grant to do hydrilla treatment at Indian Lake for year 4.
- Federal delegation is working on CDS funding for hydrilla treatment at Worden Pond.

8. Next Meeting – Thursday, February 5, 2026

9. Adjournment

S. Grimley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm. Seconded by N. Merrill. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Public Participation

The public is invited to speak at regular meetings during the public comments portion of the agenda and at other times when invited to do so by the Chairperson. Presentations will be limited to five minutes unless approved by the Chairperson