



Town of South Kingstown Waterfront Advisory Commission

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

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

A. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.

B. Gross Absent

Guests / Members of of the Public:

John and Cindy West

Oliver and Deven Dixon

Dorothy Hill on behalf of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

B. Approval of Minutes:

April 2, 2026

Motion by N. Merrill to approve April 2, 2026 minutes. Seconded by S. Grimley. Motion passed 6-0.

C. Correspondence & Public Comment:

1. CRMC Public Notice for Application Pending

File#: [2021-02-025 \(Modification\)](#)

Application Name: Cedar Island Oyster Co

City/Town: Narragansett

Description: Add seven horizontal floating lines of low-profile baskets for the cultivation of eastern oysters within the existing bottom gear lease.

John and Cindy West spoke about 2021-02-025, which is in Narragansett waters (correspondence), and 2004-05-024 which is in South Kingstown waters (new business item 1). Oliver and Deven Dixon are oyster farmers in Point Judith Pond and spoke in support of both applications.

John and Cindy West showed the members what the flip cage floats look like. Mr. West discussed the Narragansett Harbor Commission meeting and the Narragansett meeting discussion.

Ms. West discussed that they were able to address some concerns from the Harbor Island Association. Ultimately, she recounted that there was a vote taken with final motion (4-3) in favor of the application as presented.

The Narragansett Harbormaster at that meeting requested that one string on the west be removed to make the area near Beach Island where boats go faster more open for that traffic. The Wests agreed they would do that and amend their application to reflect it.

Discussion ensued on how the process of the flip farm gear works. Mr. West offered that they would add safety measures that might be recommended. Ms. West discussed that the gear they are seeking to use is different than the current floating aquaculture gear with a higher profile and bags that is seen in the salt ponds currently. This flip farm gear is lower profile, and is tended to differently.

D. Old Business:

1. Harbor Management Plan Update

M. Stach provided an update that the Solicitors Office is speaking with DEM about the request for items outside their scope of responsibility and where the process goes moving forward.

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

Tracey Owens, Principle Planner, has begun working on this in her new role and will provide updates to the Commission as they become available.

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

M. Stach provided an update that the Lake Ave permit from CRMC has been received. The Facilities Department built the kayak rack and installed it at Lake Ave. Parks and Recreation installed wood chips and did site work and helped with the transportation and installation of the rack. The Highway Department also did site work. The Town Council reallocated ARPA funds to hire D'Ambra to perform the balance of the site work to include the installation of the stone access road and the stormwater management structures. M. Stach discussed the registration process through the mooring software. Work will move to Washington St once Lake Ave is complete. Further discussion on the site layout and rack layout and operations.

4. Boats and Waterways Ordinance Revisions / Updates

N. Merrill discussed the track changes and what sections should be worked on. Discussion ensued.

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

M. Stach reported the proposal is in review with other departments.

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

M. Stach reported that D'Ambra is currently working on the expansion of the lot which will mirror the previous stone section of the lot. Discussion on additional improvements to the parking lot. I.e. dividing the lot for trailer parking, striping, new ordinance and signage. M. Sherry discussed future plantings in the area.

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

Dorothy Hill, Chairwoman of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission discussed their tasking from the Town Council to find a safe bike and pedestrian route from Wakefield and the Town Beach and how their Committee might be able to work in conjunction with the Waterfront Advisory Commission as they develop the master plan for Marina Park and the proposal to add some type of pedestrian and bike access under or over Route 1 to Wakefield.

M. Sherry suggested that in so far as the BPAC work intersects with the WAC charter and work, they can work together toward a common goal in making Marina Park connected by a safe walkable/bikable corridor to Wakefield.

8. Formerly Leased Waterfront Area Along Saugatucket River Adjacent to Marina Park Green Space — Returning to Town Operations July 1, 2027

N. Merrill discussed the mechanics of when the area reverts to Town operations. M. Sherry discussed developing the plan for the area. M. Stach discussed the federal grant request to develop the area for Town operations. S. Grimley discussed keeping this project at the forefront of their work and efforts so a plan is in place. M. Stach discussed future

dredging options, possibly working with Safe Harbor Silver Spring when they dredge.

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

Working to set up a public meeting time. RIDEM vendor working on development of the document.

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

No new updates. RIDEM vendor working on development of the document.

11. Hydrilla

No new updates. Herbicide treatments will resume at Indian Lake under the grant funding the Town received. Worden Pond Friends group is looking for membership.

12. Reconstruction of RIDEM Narrow River Boat Ramp @ Mitchell and Pollock Ave

E. New Business:

1. **CRMC Public Notice for Application Pending**

File#: [2004-05-024 \(Modification\)](#)

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N. Merrill discussed that if this is successful, how will the Commission manage potential growth of this gear in Pt. Judith and Potter Pond going forward.

S. Grimley discussed that in this case the South Kingstown application does not appear that the gear will have much other stakeholder conflict due to the depth of the water.

M. Sherry discussed the recent moves by aquaculture which started at the bottom when granted their lease initially and recently has moved to the top of the water column.

M. Stach mentioned the common discussion that is had amongst the members and heard from the general public of the

continued compression of recreations space in the salt ponds due to aquaculture leases, no wake zones, anchorages, mooring fields etc.

M. Sherry discussed that now the only waterskiing area left in Pt. Judith Pond is Wheatfield Cove.

N. Merrill requested the applicant add additional visual aids for boaters to know there is gear in the water.

N. Merrill made a motion that there are no objections to the application as presented. Seconded by S. Grimley. C. Duckworth abstention/recusal from the vote due to a conflict of interest. Motion passed 5-0.

Oliver West recounted that when they moved to top water cages and they noticed that the kayakers and paddleboarders in the lease than before. They feel it creates lanes for the paddlers to explore and check out the area.

F. Harbormaster's Report:

1. Update on New Patrol/Response Boat Construction by SAFE Boats International
Delivery to South Kingstown is expected within the week.

M. Stach reported that the new boat has been delivered as of today. The boat was offloaded by crane at the Jamestown Boat Yard from the semi truck. Work will begin to prepare for launch date.

2. Jet Dock Installation

Jet Dock will be set up for boat the week of June 1st. In the interim, the boat will be kept at another marina down pond with cleaner water.

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

Jet Dock is tied up in slip waiting for installation.

4. 2026 Mooring Renewals

Mooring renewals are out.

G. Next Meeting:

June 4, 2026

June 4, 2026

H. Adjournment:

S. Grimley made a motion to adjourn at 8:31. Seconded by C. Duckworth. Motion passed 6-0