



FORT GETTY AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES
Town Hall Council Chambers
93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI 02835
Tuesday, October 14th, 2025
4:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Marisa Quinn, Chair	Present	Lisa Bryer, Town Planner	Present, left at 5:13PM
John Potter, Vice Chair	Present	Ray DeFalco, Parks and Recreation Director	Absent
Casandra West, Secretary	Recused	Jim Heagney, Harbor Executive Director	Present
Bill Salmons, Member	Present		
Richard Smith, Member	Present		

Also in attendance was Town Administrator Edward Mello and Facilities Supervisor Lealah O'Neill.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Review, discussion, and/or action and/or vote(s) concerning:

A) Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

VOTE: A motion was made to accept the minutes from the Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025 regular meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Result: Passed

Mover: Potter

Secunder: Salmons

Ayes: Quinn, Potter, Salmons, Smith

Nays:

Absent: West

III. REPORTS - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote(s) concerning:

A) Report from Town Planner Lisa Bryer regarding current land use regulations and restrictions.

Town Planner Lisa Bryer provided a presentation to the committee and public overiewing the land use restrictions at Fort Getty. Fort Getty is in the open space district with limited permitted uses. Primary uses are recreation and special use permitted cases. Commercial fishing is permitted from the pier and overseen by the harbor department. State agencies such as RIDEM and CRMC have placed regulations on the surrounding waters and shorelines limiting certain uses. CRMC has a 200ft setback along the shoreline. The waters in Sheffield's Cove are class 1 conservation waters. The Town does not have zoning jurisdiction over the water.

B) Report from Director Ray DeFalco regarding requested information for RV waitlist procedures, pavilion application and fee schedule.

Town Administrator Edward Mello reviewed the provided materials detailing the RV seasonal and transient waitlist procedures and process, tent camping, and . Committee members asked clarifying questions about current policies and operations.

Member Potter asked if the Town had a maximum number of nights someone can tent camp. Facilities Supervisor O'Neill stated the policy is a maximum of 14 days in a 28 day period, matching the states campground policy. Member Quinn inquired about how the general operations of the campground through the season. O'Neill responded that the campground is booked nearly every weekend through the summer with minor incidents outside of regular operations. Some minor noise and trash issues were noted.

Town staff continued to review park policies and operations. It was noted that the turnover rate for the campground varies year to year but with approximately 4-12 sites changing over each year. The waitlist normally has 20-30 individuals on it with Jamestown Residents and full season applicants receiving priority. Staff noted that there are no dedicated transient sites as the park prioritizes full season, which is logistically easier to manage than a regular rotation of new people and moving trailers as well as creating a sense of community in the park.

IV. OLD BUSINESS - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote(s) concerning:

- A) Community survey development including but not limited to timeline and scope of questions.

The Committee review the current draft survey and incorporated member feedback to create an updated draft to be reviewed at the next meeting. Primary topics of discussion circled around ensuring validity in the results and who the prospective audience for the survey is.

Town Planner Bryer left at 5:13PM.

- B) Committee meeting schedule.

Committee reviewed the future meeting schedule including the planned meeting for October 28th.

V. NEW BUSINESS - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote(s) concerning:

- A) Requests for additional presentations or reports from relevant parties such as historical requirements or environmental impacts.

The Committee discussed additional groups they would like to hear from during the current information gathering phase. Discussed were harbor plan policies, historical, capital investments and projects, other land restrictions.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

- A) Scheduled request to address: None at this time.
- B) Non-scheduled request to address.

Sheryl Boyd of Stanchion Lane addressed the committee to provide feedback on the survey wording and questions.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED –

- A) Flann Lippincott of North Main Road – Letter to Town Council regarding appointments to Fort Getty Ad Hoc Committee and potential conflicts of interest.

VOTE: A motion was made to accept the communications received. The motion was unanimously approved.

Result: Passed

Mover: Potter

Second: Salmons

Ayes: Quinn, Potter, Salmons, Smith

Nays:

Absent: West

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-6(c) Notice of this meeting shall be posted on the Secretary of State's website and at the Town Hall and the Jamestown Philomenian Library. Notice is also posted at the Jamestown Police Station and on the Internet at www.jamestownri.gov.

VOTE: A motion was made to adjourn at 5:47PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Result: Passed

Mover: Potter

Second: Salmons

Ayes: Quinn, Potter, Salmons, Smith

Nays:

Absent: West



FORT GETTY AD HOC COMMITTEE MINUTES
Town Hall, Council Chambers
93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI 02835
Thursday, October 23rd, 2025
1:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Marisa Quinn, Chair	Present
John Potter, Vice Chair	Present
Casandra West, Secretary	Present
Bill Salmons, Member	Absent
Richard Smith, Member	Present

Lisa Bryer, Town Planner	Absent
Ray DeFalco, Parks and Recreation Director	Present
Jim Heagney, Harbor Executive Director	Present

II. REPORTS - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote(s) concerning:

A) Report from Harbor Executive Director Jim Heagney regarding harbor management plan.

Harbor Executive Director presented information from the harbor management plan. The final plan is currently being reviewed by the Harbor Commission. Fort Getty has three primary harbor related activities: kayak racks, outhauls, and pier permit. They reported the boat ramp can be unusable at low tide depending on the craft. A touch and go dock has been rejected by CRMC and is not considered an option. The Harbor Master Plan has limited verbiage about Fort Getty due to the type 1 water restrictions. It was recommended the committee looks at ways to expand commercial fishing.

B) Report from Director Ray DeFalco regarding park financials and usage by acreage.

Director DeFalco provided an overview of park usage by acreage. The park is approximately 41 acres. The acreage usage has been fairly consistent from 2021. However some RV sites have been made vacant in recent years to reduce the total number.

Committee members asked the Director about some of the changes in revenue. Changes in revenue were noted between 2020-2022 due to COVID and pavilion in 2025. Town staff noted a number of pavilion event cancelations in 2025 in excess to what is normally seen in a season. It was also mentioned the difficulty in filling canceled event dates due to the nature of scheduling the large events normally hosted at the facility. The last RV increase was in 2023.

Committee members inquired about creating a second town beach at Fort Getty. Staff noted that the logistics would be challenging due to staffing constraints, beach safety, and public access.

III. OLD BUSINESS - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote(s) concerning:

A) Community survey development including but not limited to timeline and scope of questions.

The committee reviewed the current version of the survey. The committee agreed to split the survey into two surveys to reach out to residents/tax payers and non-residents separately.

B) Committee meeting schedule.

The next meeting time and date were not moved. The next meeting of the committee will be held 10/28/2025 at 1:00PM.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote(s) concerning:

A) Update on proposed electrical upgrade to Fort Getty

VOTE: A motion was to table item IV. A to the next meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Result: Passed

Mover: West

Secunder: Potter

Ayes: Quinn, Potter, West, Smith

Nays:

Absent: Salmons

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

A) Scheduled request to address: None at this time.

B) Non-scheduled request to address.

Tony Pinheiro, Beacon Avenue, addressed the committee. They are currently an outhaul permit holder and commercial fishermen. They clarified aquaculture is allowed and is considered livestock. The use is encouraged by the town and state.

Sheryl Boyd, Stanchion Lane, addressed the committee to share their appreciate to Director DeFalco and the department for the improvements and changes made to the park of the last couple of years. They added feedback for the current survey version.

Mary Meagher, Melrose Avenue, addressed the committee to explain their letter attached in meeting materials.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED –

- A) Member William Salmons – Response to Lippincott’s letter regarding conflict of interest
- B) Kathleen Brown – Survey validity and park usage
- C) Elizabeth Hazard – RV campground and park usage

VOTE: A motion was made to accept the communications received. The motion was unanimously approved.

Result: Passed

Mover: Potter

Secunder: Smith

Ayes: Quinn, Potter, West, Smith

Nays:

Absent: Salmons

VII. ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: A motion was made to adjourn at 2:58PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Result: Passed

Mover: West

Secunder: Smith

Ayes: Quinn, Potter, West, Smith

Nays:

Absent: Salmons

From: [Marisa Quinn](#)
To: [Rosemary Enright](#)
Cc: [Dennis Webster](#); [Edward Mello](#); [Cody Clarkin](#)
Subject: Re: Fort Getty
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12:50:14 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Jamestown email system. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and determine the content is safe.

Dear Rosemary, Thank you again for sending this material. I am copying Cody Clark and, who is staffing the ad hoc committee, to share this information along other historical background with the committee. Please let us know if you have any concerns.

Marisa

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 20, 2025, at 4:58 PM, Rosemary Enright <rxenright@gmail.com> wrote:

Marisa -

As far as I know there are no legal restrictions on any structures at Fort Getty - which doesn't mean there shouldn't be. In particular, the stone wall and entrance pillars to the park were built by the POWs in the period toward the end of and just after World War II and definitely should be preserved.

The original agreement with the federal government defined rights of way, and I think these still exist though they haven't been exercised. The town would know better than I do. Also from what I have read, a town ad hoc committee evaluated the remaining structures at the time the fort was purchased. That would be in May-June 1954. The report from that committee might be helpful, although much has changed/been lost since then.

The only pre-1945 structures visible are the building now used as the bathrooms and the remnants of the fortifications, most of which have been filled in.

The state of the park at the time it was turned over to the town can be seen in four photos in the JHS collection. These photos were taken for the town council in 1954 when the acquisition of the park was being considered.

<https://jamestownhistoricalsociety.catalogaccess.com/photos/3739>

<https://jamestownhistoricalsociety.catalogaccess.com/photos/3740>

<https://jamestownhistoricalsociety.catalogaccess.com/photos/3741>

<https://jamestownhistoricalsociety.catalogaccess.com/photos/3742>

As the pictures show most of the barracks had been removed already and the roadways where the trailer park now is were the same as they are now. I think some of the septic system may also be being used.

The gun emplacements were not filled in when the town acquired the park. They were filled in by the town in the 1970s, One document we have says that the fill came from the building of the sewer treatment place. I have copied Dennis Webster on this because he thinks that timeline is wrong. One interesting, but undated, photo in our collections shows the park in the period when trailers were permitted (after 1967) and before the filling in of the fortifications began.
<https://jamestownhistoricalsociety.catalogaccess.com/photos/5316>

Rosemary Enright