



EAST PROVIDENCE WATERFRONT DISTRICT COMMISSION

Waterfront Commission Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 18, 2021 – 6:30 PM

A remote/virtual meeting was held in accordance with Governor Gina Raimondo’s EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-46, JUNE 12, 2020, FORTY-SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION - PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS, EXTENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 21-21, MARCH 3, 2021, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION – EXTENSION OF EXECUTIVE ORDERS.

Commissioners present via video and audio:

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| William Fazioli, Chair | Rick Lawson |
| Steve Hardcastle, Treasurer | Jennifer Griffith |
| Domenic Pontarelli | Mayor Robert DaSilva |
| David O’Connell | Mike Walker, Commerce RI |
| Tim Conley, Vice Chair | Daniel Borges, DPW |
| Paul Moura, Secretary | |

Voting Members Absent:

- Peter Willey
- Luis Torrado

Staff present via video and audio:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chris Martin, Executive Director | Dominic Leonardo, Waterfront Intern |
| Amy Goins, Legal Counsel | |

1. **CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARKS** The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and gave an overview of remote meeting protocol.
2. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **VOTE:** The motion by Mr. Pontarelli to approve the minutes of February 25, 2021 was seconded by Mr. Lawson and passed by a unanimous voice vote.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. The Chair gave an overview of developments at the South Quay—a currently underutilized parcel in the Waterfront District’s Bold Point Harbor sub-district. The developer of the site, Rhode Island Waterfront Enterprises is planning to build an offshore wind port there.

The Chair introduced William Cotta the Offshore Wind Supply Chain Director at Commerce RI. Mr. Cotta presented to the board an overview of the region’s offshore wind industry and how Rhode Island and East Providence can fit into it. In 2016, RI launched the first Offshore Wind Farm in the US—the 30 megawatt Block Island wind farm. In 2018, RI procured an additional 400MW of wind power. Orsted and Eversource are currently developing Revolution Wind, expected to be operational as early as 2023. RI Commerce, in collaboration with other state agencies, has been working to build out RI’s Offshore Wind supply chain, supporting companies landing and expanding in the state. There are expected to be 83,000 jobs generated globally by 2030 to support this industry. Rhode Island’s Offshore Wind strategy is to grow the local companies that can compete, invest in infrastructure and innovate globally by establishing regional clusters, providing access to capital and supporting companies moving tech from research to commercialization.

Melissa Martin of RI Waterfront Enterprises gave an overview of the plans at the South Quay and their role in bringing Offshore Wind to East Providence. The South Quay project is moving forward and expects to finish the permitting, pre-construction and procurement activities anticipated in the late spring of 2021. Construction would then begin in August 2021 and the facility would be fully

operational by 2023 on this timeline. The South Quay could potentially bring 247 construction jobs and 934 annual jobs in Rhode Island. The City of East Providence will be submitting a grant proposal for federal INFRA grants for this project by 3/19/21.

B. VOTE: FY21 Modified Budget to reflect \$50,000 grant from Commerce RI.

On a motion by Mr. Hardcastle and a second by Mr. Lawson, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the FY21 modified budget to reflect the \$50,000 grant from Commerce RI.

4. STAFF REPORT.

Mr. Martin provided a staff report. There have been no new development applications yet, though he does anticipate something soon for East Point and Getty. The Affordable Housing draft amendment will be on the April Planning Board agenda and then hopefully on the next council docket after that--April 20th. Mr. Martin anticipates making the \$200k in-lieu payment to One Neighborhood Builders by the end of this month. This was approved at the 8/20/20 WC meeting. We have asked that they provide periodic updates (every 6 mo) to ensure compliance with conditions that were set. Sage Environmental was nominated for the Brownfields Project of the Year from the Environmental Business Council of New England for the remediation work done at Kettle Point. The award announcement is expected in the spring. Mr. Martin indicated that we are getting closer to a commitment from Chevron to build an ADA kayak launch. It will likely be at Bold Point Park, pending an approval from CRMC. Mr. Martin spoke with Preston Halpern of Phillipsdale this week and he indicated that there is a lot of recent and upcoming leasing activity going on there.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th, 2021.

5. VOTE: ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Pontarelli, seconded by Mr. Moura to adjourn. On voice vote the Waterfront Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRIS MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR