

Fort Getty sailing center proposed

By [ohtadmin](#) | on January 25, 2024



A schematic by Union Studios of the proposed sailing center at Fort Getty to be operated by the Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation.

The town council has approved the concept of a sailing center with 3,310 square feet of buildings on a 15,000-square-foot campus at Fort Getty.

The councilors at their Jan. 16 meeting unanimously approved the proposal by the Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation. It now advances to the technical review committee, which will consider the plan at 1 p.m. Jan. 26 at Town Hall.

The plan was presented by Jamestown architect Elliot Richmond representing Union Studio. Situated on the northeast section of Fort Getty where the sailing operation currently operates from its tent and trailers, the campus would include a 2,190-square-foot building that would comprise office space, a multipurpose room, a laboratory and restrooms. The second building on the campus would be a 1,120-square-foot workshop with storage space. The campus would be just inside 200 feet from the shoreline, which means it would not fall under the jurisdiction of the Coastal Resources Management Council. Richmond called it a “new permanent home” for the nonprofit organization that served 6,000 children in 2023.

“We’ve worked to utilize the existing space and existing layout as much as we can,” he said.

Richmond said they maintained “a minimal footprint” by proposing the larger structure be built into the hill.

“We put it at the bottom of the hill to keep the scale down as much as possible to minimize the visual impact,” he said. “We were cognizant of the size. This is a site that doesn’t have many buildings. ... We’ve tried to minimize the footprint.”

As for the storage building, Richmond said it sits right against the 200-foot line. It could be moved if there were concerns about flooding.

“This building is flexible where we could put it,” he said. “We can move it west. We can move it west south. There has been all the resiliency talk, too, and maybe pushing this up the slope a bit to be out of the potential rising seas.”

Richmond said the proposal includes a south-facing gable, natural light cedar shingles and timbers on the roof “to evoke a traditional form that will feel very at home in Jamestown.”

Mary Meagher, vice president of the council, applauded the design.

“I think, because there is a very sweet quality to his building, ... it’s modest,” she said. “It’s kind of like they were trying to do the job that they have in front of them. They’re not trying to make a big statement.”

Councilman Erik Brine said the work done for the foundation represents “the greatest thing we’ve done with that space for the public good.”

“I’ve been really impressed with the programming they’ve done there in the small footprint,” he said.