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Pivarnik accepts position as interim director at Port of Port Townsend

Kingston — Sept. 17 will be Port of Kingston Executive Director Jim Pivarnik's last day on the job. The following day he takes the helm of the Port of Port Townsend as its new interim director. He replaces Sam Gibboney, who resigned Aug. 15.

"A year ago, I told the Kingston Port Commissioners I planned to retire at the end of 2019. So, while my departure is premature, we're prepared for it; the four major challenges we faced when I came on board in 2016 have largely been accomplished.

"We now have in place very robust public information and regulatory policies to assure we meet all of our legal requirements," Pivarnik said.

"As for the other three challenges: The covered moorage project is complete. On Aug. 15, we opened the Port's new park on Washington Blvd. — a project that started clear back in 2013. And our preparations for the new Kingston-to-Seattle fast ferry will be completed by October.

"Most important, the Port now has a great team of commissioners and staff in place — and that has done a great deal to build the Port's relationship with the community.

"I had planned to — would have been honored to — finish out my professional career at the Port of Kingston," he said. "But, Port Townsend is home for my wife Christina and I. Plus, I worked there as deputy port director from 2001 to 2016 and can step right into the position."

One thing hasn't changed: Pivarnik still plans to retire in a year or 18 months. "A big part of my job at Port Townsend, as it would have been here, is to help them find my replacement."

"Jim Pivarnik has been a tremendous asset to the Port of Kingston and our community," said Port Commission President Mary McClure. "We are in a strong position now to move forward, and we will. We appreciate what Jim has done here and wish him well. We understand that he took

the Port Townsend position — it's his home town and they need his professional skills. Yet, every moment of loss is also a moment of opportunity. We share his enthusiasm for Kingston's future.”

ABOUT PIVARNIK: Pivarnik was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is currently the treasurer of the Washington Public Ports Association and vice commodore of the Port Townsend Yacht Club.

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