

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
July 24, 2023

Chair Cashel called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on July 24, 2023 at 4:00 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Ace Ahrens, Heather Burnham, Jim Reid and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Dave McCall, Jon Haney and Deanna Ross. There were no members of the public present.

Chair Cashel established that a quorum was present. Everyone in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

Management Reports

Traffic - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. May traffic numbers were up. Passengers were up by 13% and commercial traffic by 63% compared to 2022. On time percentage was 98%. Mr. Haney reported that it was a good Memorial Day holiday weekend and on par from the previous year.

June passenger and vehicle traffic was down 3% and 6% and Commercial traffic was up 29% compared to 2022. Mr. Haney reported that the summer boat times have been working out and having the 10am boat is helping with freight. The 10am and 2pm boats are taking pressure off of the noon and 3:30 boats. In addition, the use of the Munnatawket for the 10am and 2pm boat runs have allowed the crew to deal with some routine maintenance of Race Point.

Boat Update - Mr. Haney updated the BOC. Race Point has been having some control issues regarding a faulty USCG cable. These issues have been resolved. Spare cables are on hand.

The Munnatawket charter for the FICC Around the Island Cruise last week went very well and there were a lot of positive remarks about it.

Silver Eel has seen a significant increase in ridership. There have been various charters using the Silver Eel. A museum trip is coming up next week and an eel grass trip the following week.

Staffing - Mr. Haney reported that all the new hires from last meeting seem to be working out well. Mr. Haney reported that the fuel charter boat for next week will be moved to Tuesday instead of the usual Wednesday charter. Those that had reservations were notified.

Correspondence/Public Comment - Mr. McCall reported that he received correspondence from Mrs. Ellen Parker requesting medical fare abatement.

Mr. McCall reported that Healthy Planeat has been sending food over to various individuals and The West End Cafe since 2021. Food is sent in small containers that the ferry has to send back. The small containers are housed in a bonar box. To date, the ferry has not been charging to do this. In addition, Mr. McCall reported that the FI Oyster Farm has been collaborating with Healthy Planeat, in an effort to support small local farmers, and selling their oysters via the Healthy Planeat website. The Oyster Farm has been placing a cooler outside the freight building for island customers to pick up their oysters, along with other items from Healthy Planeat. A letter was received from Ms. Rosemary Ostfeld from Healthy Planeat looking for

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solutions so customers can pick up their oysters. Discussion ensued to come up with an arrangement with Healthy Planeats and the FI Oyster Farm. Mr. McCall and management will determine a flat fee for handling of the bonar box and a fee for the oyster cooler which is placed at the ferry every Wednesday and reach out to Healthy Planteat and the FI Oyster Farm.

Mr. McCall reported that Mr. Paul Ford ceased operations on the Island and he has publicly advertised the Airport road shop that Mr. Ford was renting. Mr. McCall received three emails expressing interest in the property which is set up as a wood working shop with a saw dust removal system. An email was received from Mr. Tom Ahlgren from Skyline Carpentry who has taken over some of Mr. Ford's clients and is very interested in the commercial space. A second email was received from Mr. Jay Scanlon from Island Gardeners expressing interest in the space. Thirdly, an email was received from Ms. Courtney Allan and Mr. Jeff Barrett expressing interest in the building for a Fishing Rod making and repair shop. Discussion ensued regarding the building and the container and trailer that are on the property. The BOC feels that the best use of the building would be for Skyline to rent the building. A resolution will follow at the next BOC meeting. Management will continue to work with the other interested parties for rental space.

Mr. McCall reported that an email was received from Mrs. Louisa Evans requesting permission to present the Airport building as a possibility for the State Troopers. In addition, Mrs. Evans expressed her willingness to move forward with having the TOS transfer the development rights to the Parade Ground property into the 2% property so as to protect the Parade Grounds from any future development and protect of of the FI Conservancy's work. Discussion ensued. Mr. McCall reported that after several conversations, Mr. Hubert is not willing to downsize to that extent.

Minutes

Resolution 2023-115

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the following minutes: June 12, 2023

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens
Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham, Cashel, Reid and Shillo
Nays: None

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2023 –116

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated July 24, 2023, in the amount of \$114,534.26

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

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Seconded by: Commissioner Burnham
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham, Cashel, Reid and Shillo

Budget Mod

RESOLUTION 2023-117

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District Hereby amends the **2023** Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Increase Appropriations:

SM5710.4.000.500	Computer/IT Support	\$ 40,000.00
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Total		\$ 40,000.00

Decrease Appropriations:

SM5710.4.000.300	Ferry Ops: Fuel Oil	\$ 40,000.00
		\$
		\$
		\$
Total		\$ 40,000.00

Moved by: Commissioner Ahrens
Seconded by: Commissioner Reid
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham, Cashel, Reid and Shillo
Nays: None

Internet Services

RESOLUTION 2023-118

WHEREAS The Fishers Island Ferry District requires internet access AND Frontier Communications is the sole provider of fiber internet access to our New London Terminal,

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Therefore, the Board of Commissioners authorizes management to renew the contract with Frontier for a period of 36 months at \$660.00 per month subject to review and approval of District Counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo
Ayes: Ahrens, Burnham, Cashel, Reid and Shillo
Nays: None

Management Reports Continued

Elliot Bay Report - Mr. Cook sent out the final report from Elliot Bay regarding the survey that was done. The report is 134 pages. Discussion ensued regarding a condensed summary to share with the public. Mr. Cook will get back to Elliot Bay to inquire about any recommendations to condense and share this information with the community.

Ticketing Update - Mr. Cook reported that a meeting occurred and some issues have been fixed but the new ticketing system remains a work in progress. Discussion ensued. Mr. Cook reported that despite the issues, revenues have been up by 10% from the previous year.

UPS Contract Renewal - Mr. Cook reported that the UPS contract is up for renewal. Currently UPS pays the Ferry District \$6 per package. The Ferry District has responded to increase the fare from \$6 to \$8 per package. UPS responded at \$6.80. The Ferry District has countered at \$7 per package and waiting for a response from UPS.

Port Security Grant - Mr. Cook reported that he was notified that the Ferry District has won a small port security grant for \$32,000. This grant money will be used for new lighting fixtures at the Fishers Island ramps and radios for the captains.

Parking - Commissioner Cashel reported that parking has been an issue when trying to pick up freight. Mr. McCall reported that the main parking area is for 30 minutes only and he has removed cars to the area behind the freight building. Commissioner Ahrens asked if signage is in the works to prevent people from hitting the new fence that is protecting the berm and the ferry park behind the annex. Mr. McCall reported he is working on it. Commissioner Burnham stated that she would like the BOC and management to have a better masterplan for parking and solve the issue with the pond that forms after heavy rains.

Executive Session - No Executive Session needed at this time.

Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2023, at 4:00 PM at the Community Center and via Zoom.

Adjournment

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There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner H. Burnham, seconded by Commissioner J. Reid, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.