

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Fishers Island Ferry District
March 18, 2019

Chairman Ahrens, at the Fishers Island Community Center, called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (“the Ferry District”) to order on March 18, 2019 at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners William Bloethe, Heather Burnham and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, and Deanna Ross. Commissioner Peter Rugg was absent. RJ Burns and Diane Hansen were present via telephone. Members of the public included Mere Doyen.

Chairman Ahrens established that a quorum was present. Everyone in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

Correspondence/Public Comment – Mr. Cook reported that two pieces of correspondence were received. A letter from the Fishers Island Community Center was presented requesting the reservation of the ferry for its 14th annual fireworks cruise to be held on July 13, 2019. All BOC members are in favor and supportive. The rate would be the same as in 2018. In addition, a letter was presented from Heidi DuPont to be entered into the record. See attachment A. The BOC discussed this and management will attempt to identify senior parking. There was no public comment.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2019 - 038

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby proves the minutes of the January 31, 2019, February 18, 2019 and March 4, 2019 meetings.

Moved by: Commissioner W. Bloethe
Seconded by: Commissioner A. Ahrens
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham and D. Shillo
Nays: None

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2019 - 039

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated March 18, 2019, in the amount of \$199,564.74.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo
Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham
Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham and D. Shillo
Nays: None

Finance - Mr. Cook updated the BOC and reviewed the financials for the January/February 2019 period. Highlights included the following: Month to month freight up 13%, Car/Traffic down 19% and Payroll up 51% but included three payroll periods. Computer operating costs were up and Mr. Murphy will be looking into that. Overall, operating costs were up for February 2019 over February 2018.

Traffic - Mr. Murphy reviewed the traffic report with the BOC. Vehicles remain about the same; however commercial traffic was down 37%. Passenger traffic also was down. Discussion ensued and the BOC realizes many variables play a factor and feel that a six month window is a much better indicator than month to month.

Management Reports

Marine Update - Mr. Burns updated the BOC. Race Point has been operating fine. Munnatawket progress is continuing at the shipyard and they are on track for an on-time delivery. All the shafts and engines have been installed. Shaft alignment will take place later. Scheduled target delivery date is March 26, 2019. Availability of the USCG Marine Inspectors to certify the work may push the date back to the week of April 1, 2019. With regard to the fishing vessel off of Hay Harbor, Mr. Burns is waiting for a response from the USCG regarding an accurate up to the minute update. As of this morning, Mr. Burns was told by the USCG that on either Tuesday and/or Wednesday, there should be a barge at the location with a crane on it to lift the vessel out and place it on a barge where there will be a fuel truck there to pump all the fuel, hydraulic oil, etc. out and make sure there is no more hazardous content on the vessel. Mr. Burns reported that although the plan remains controversial and the USCG is looking into alternative plans; as of now, the vessel will be placed back in the water and anchored. The USCG is deeming this as a pollution incident and not a navigational hazard. Mr. Burns disagrees and has voiced his concerns to the USCG and believes that this is not only a pollution hazard but also a navigational hazard. Mr. Burns feels that the area where they want to anchor the boat is not appropriate due to the current and is concerned with the possibility of it breaking loose and drifting out into the Sound posing a threat to other vessels including the Ferry. Mr. Burns noted that since this wreck landed near the island, he has had his crew take daily Fix and Bearing logs on the first and last runs daily to make sure it hasn't moved. Discussion ensued. The BOC thanked Mr. Burns and Mr. Cook for all their work regarding this matter and Mr. Burns has agreed to keep management and the BOC informed of any new information he receives and/or developments.

Property Update - Mr. Murphy informed the BOC that he has not received any feedback or questions from the renters regarding the newly assessed property tax. Mr. Murphy also reported that management is going through the process of acquiring the newly required rental permit for 357 Whistler Avenue.

Theater Update - Mr. Murphy is waiting for the electrical report from Chris LaFleche of BD. Chris is on vacation.

Dredging Update - Mr. Cook updated the BOC. The RFPs should be complete at the end of this week. Mr. Cook is hoping to be ready to pick a contractor at the next BOC meeting. The dredging RFPs will be two parts, one for the actual dredging and a second for managing the dredge spoils.

Procurement Review - Mr. Murphy informed the BOC that each year they are required to review the procurement policy. The Finance Committee will review and make any recommendations to the BOC.

A. Edwards Settlement - Tabled.

Other

Mr. Murphy and the BOC would like to inform the public of the future probability of paid long-term parking at the Fishers Island Terminal sometime in 2020. More information will be provided as the dredging, ferry park and Walsh Park apartment projects move forward.

Mr. Murphy would like to recommend to the BOC that the 2019 Peak Schedule not be included in the telephone book. Discussion ensued and the BOC would like the schedule published if completed in time for the deadline; however, passengers need to be aware that it may change and to use the schedule on the website for accurate travel times.

Mr. Murphy would like to direct everyone's attention to the Hurricane/Flood Map posted on the Flood-iQ.com link found in the article regarding a study on sea level rise posted on fishersisland.net on March 7, 2019.

Property Management

RESOLUTION 2019 - 040

357 Whistler Ave

WHEREAS, the Fishers Island Ferry District ("FD") wishes to lease 357 Whistler Avenue for one month to an employee; and

WHEREAS, the BOC has determined that proposal is fair and reasonable and beneficial to the residents of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the FD authorizes management to execute the Lease Agreement with Kevin Carroll for a term of one (1) month without a renewal option for the amount of \$800.00 per month, subject to the approval of District Counsel and the Town Attorney.

Moved by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Executive Session

At 17:33, the following resolution was proposed: RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Moved by: Commissioner D. Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner W. Bloethe

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham and D. Shillo

Nays: None

At 18:00, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, that the Commission exit from Executive Session and resume Public Session.

Moved by: Commissioner A. Ahrens

Seconded by: Commissioner H. Burnham

Ayes: A. Ahrens, W. Bloethe, H. Burnham and D. Shillo

Nays: None

Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, April 1, 2019 at 4:30 pm at the Island Community Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Commissioner W. Bloethe, seconded by Commissioner A. Ahrens, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Attachment A

From: Heidi Anne duPont
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Geb Cook
Subject: Request for Preferred Parking

Dear Members of the FI Ferry Board,

I hope that everyone had a nice winter season and are getting ready for Spring to finally arrive, as am I.

I wanted to communicate a concern that I have with regard to the parking situation on the island side. Jeb was kind enough to listen to me express my concerns in a rather panicked and frustrated manner last Friday, and he suggested I write an email to be considered at today's board meeting.

As you may know, my father tripped on the sidewalk last Friday and ended up requiring a number of stitches to the head and has quite the black eye. He is doing well thanks to the swift response and work of the EMTs and Dr Chris. He also seems to be healing very quickly for which we are grateful and amazed!

My frustration and concern though is regarding the fact that he had to walk up the street to his car in the first place. I feel that especially in the winter/off season, it would make sense to allow the small number of people that are individually commuting to the island on a daily basis to have a parking spot that is a bit closer to the dock.

In my father's case, I have always found it surprising that given all that he has done for the island, and especially the ferry district, that he might have earned a more convenient parking spot since he comes and goes so regularly in the off season. He will probably kill me for writing in about this, but since this is not the first time he has taken a spill at the ferry dock, and is a little accident prone (to say the least) my personal thought is that it would be great for him to have a designated spot. I know that he used to park up against the side of the Lighthouse Works building back in the day.

As you know, once his boats are back in the water he doesn't commute via the ferry as much, so we are really only talking about the off season. In the past, he has received notes on his windshield or on the front seat about parking in the wrong zone for too long, as have I, and while I understand that not everyone can just park anywhere, I do feel that given his senior status, frequent winter commuting schedule, and active lifestyle that apparently causes him to take a spill from time to time, it would be one less thing to worry about especially when the winter ice and snow are present, which thankfully they were not a factor as much this season, but hopefully you get my point. Things could have been so much worse!

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and thank you also for your general efforts with the ferry district as they probably don't get acknowledged enough, but they are certainly appreci-

ated. I know second-hand from years of absorbing some of the stresses as the ferry district issues have long had a seat at our dinner table!!

Thanks again,
Heidi duPont