

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Fishers Island Ferry District  
March 13, 2020

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 13, 2020 at 1:00 PM.

Commissioners Andrew Ahrens, Jim Reid and Dianna Shillo were present. Also in attendance were Geb Cook, Gordon Murphy, RJ Burns and Jon Haney. Commissioners William Bloethe and Heather Burnham were absent. There were two members of the public; Christian Arsenault and Paul Giles.

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

**Correspondence/Public Comment** – There was no correspondence and the two members of the public will be asked to speak later in the meeting.

#### **District Update**

A general discussion led by Mr. Cook took place about ferry operations. The Commissioners asked that a notice be placed on the website spelling out what is being done in the terminals and ferryboats with regard to cleaning and sanitizing. Chairman Ahrens asked that an email blast be sent to the islanders and commercial customers. The Town of Southold notice of declared emergency was also discussed.

Mr. Arsenault discussed how the school would close and how the days would be allocated/accounted for. The decision is out of local hands and it takes Albany to release the schools. It was noted that the process is very different in Connecticut.

Mr. Burns outlined that the two ferries were available. He also noted that the USCG would not shut down the service. It is possible that the CDC could, but it most likely would be a New York State directive or one from the Board. It was noted that the interstate component made the decision more complex. A discussion on schedule changes ensued, with the BOC inclined to reduce to three trips a day starting Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Reid asked about the M/V Silver Eel. Mr. Cook said that the ferry was still at the marina and waiting on several small projects, but it could be launched and put into service within two days.

Commissioners Burnham and Shillo led the discussion on sanitizing and fogging. Mr. Cook was asked to look into additional weekly or as needed third party cleaning and sanitizing; and the possibility that the District should look into fogging the ferries. It was also discussed if taking passenger temperatures was necessary. It was generally agreed that staff is not trained or equipped to do so. Chairman Ahrens asked about FEMA. Mr. Murphy said it was too soon to tell, but we would liaise with TOS.

It was generally agreed to:

- Monitor the situation, as it remains fluid

- Increase cleaning
- Stick to the three boat schedule to see how it works for all constituencies
- BOC & Mgmt. to meet weekly and ad hoc for updates
- Reach out to the school, island services (health and utility) and the USCG

Commissioner Burnham recommend that there be more crew meetings.

**Next BOC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2020 at 1:00 PM.** There will be an additional briefing in a week to discuss any operational issues due to Covid-19 – time and date TBD

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, and on motion made by Chairman Ahrens and seconded by Commissioner Shillo meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm.