

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

April 7, 2025
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Reid called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the “Ferry District”) to order on April 7, 2025 at 4:06 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners David Congdon, Tom Cashel, and Jim Reid were present at the Community Center, as were Dave McCall and Jessica NeJame. Geb Cook, Jon Haney, and Commissioner Heather Burnham were present via Zoom. Commissioner Dianna Shillo was absent. No members of the public were present.

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

General Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment/Correspondence: Bob Miller HLF museum email
4. Marine Update: New hires, Race Point status, Munnatawket status
5. Warrant: \$229,544.45
6. HR New Hire
7. PIDP Grant – Rack dolphins/Catwalk/Fi Terminal roof
8. Eversource Lighting upgrade NL terminal
9. Commercial leases
10. Minutes: Jan 10, 27; Feb 10; Mar 3, 10 and 24
11. Executive: Real estate; legal
12. Other: New Ferry update, Traffic, Airport to shut April 21, Schultz slab storage
13. Next scheduled meetings –Tuesday April 22, 2025, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom.
14. Adjournment

Public Comment:

We got a letter from the Bob Miller on behalf of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum with some drawings regarding the Coastal Path, asking if the ferry feels a license agreement is needed for the 250 feet of path crossing town land at the end of the runway. Geb spoke with the deputy town attorney, James Squicciarini, who reviewed the situation and indicated that he did not feel a license agreement was needed. This request was compared to the examples of someone walking along at Race Point anyways, as well as the use of the Parade Grounds by the Fishers Island Conservancy. Commissioner Congdon expressed his understanding that if there was a damage event, the FIFD would be liable. The potential need for indemnity was discussed, and concern was expressed about making sure that the FIFD is asking for the same thing from all tenants. The specifics of this matter, such as how much insurance is needed, as well as other liability concerns facing the FIFD were also discussed. Overall, the Board of Commissioners was supportive of the project, but determined that the logistics regarding insurance needed to be sorted out. Geb will talk to our insurance people to determine the coverage required for this path and will also look at the contract with the FI Conservancy to see if indemnity is included in that.

Marine Update:

Jon has been reviewing applications and conducting interviews. Three people have been hired, but we still need two more. They will do another push for this at the end of the month, in case folks aren't yet thinking about summer work.

The FI Club wants to charter the Munnatawket on Sunday June 1st for the Sanger Invitational. This booking works on our end and Jon will move forward with the details for this.

Any residual issues with the Race Point have been taken care of and we received the final shipyard invoice. Geb credited Jon with facilitating this project to come in at \$150k under budget.

There's a big push for contractors even on the weekend recently, so there haven't been many opportunities to get the Munnatawket in service for days at a time. We've somewhat outgrown this boat for daily use.

The Coast Guard inspection will be scheduled for earlier this year. A contractor will be brought in for the CO₂ suppression inspection.

The NY State Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau team will be providing a notice to the ferry of our violations from their inspection. These had to do with confined space and lead paint. Some employees have to periodically go in tanks, which we've been doing less of now. We also did a confined space training. We thought that we got rid of all the lead paint, but some was identified by PESH so some employees will need to have their blood tested for lead and get annual respirator fittings, which the ferry will pay for. We have until June 12 to abate our violations.

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2025-022

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the following minutes: Jan 10, 2025, Jan 24, 2025, Feb 10, 2025, Mar 3, 2025, Mar 10, 2025, and Mar 24 2025.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Congdon, Cashel and Reid

Nays: None

Discussion: A few minor errors were identified and corrected.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2025 –023

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated April 7, 2025 in the amount of \$229,544.45

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon and Reid

Nays: None

Discussion: Minor discussion ensued about the specifics of these charges.

HR New Hire

RESOLUTION 2025-024

WHEREAS, the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 17, 2025, Mathew Goulart as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$17.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 12, 2025 Mr. Goulart from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 15, 2025, Mr. Goulart will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Congdon, Cashel and Reid

Nays: None

HR New Hire

RESOLUTION 2025-025

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 17, 2025, Matthew Tobin as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$17.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 12, 2025 Mr. Tobin from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 15, 2025, Mr. Tobin will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Congdon, Cashel and Reid

Nays: None

HR New Hire

RESOLUTION 2025-026

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 17, 2025, Megan Demastus as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$17.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 12, 2025 Ms. Demastus from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 15, 2025, Ms. Demastus will terminate her summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Congdon, Cashel and Reid

Nays: None

Professional Services

RESOLUTION 2025 – 027

WHEREAS, PJM Consulting, LLC (PJMC) specializes in drafting grant applications related to the marine industry; and

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has requested a quote from PJMC for professional services and assistance in the preparation of a grant from the Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure Development Program PIDP; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District has determined that the familiarity and technical expertise in the submission of these grant applications will enhance the likelihood of an award to the District; and

WHEREAS, PJMC has presented a proposal to the BOC for the provision of professional grant writing services dated April 2, 2025, at the cost of \$245/hr not to exceed \$8500.00; and

WHEREAS, the BOC of the FIFD has determined that it would not be in the best interests of the taxpayers of the FIFD to seek alternative proposals or quotations from other engineering firms who do not possess PJMC's technical expertise in this field.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED that the BOC waives the requirement of a second quote in Guideline 8 of the FIFD's Procurement Policy; and be it further

RESOLVED that the BOC of the FIFD hereby accepts the proposal of PJMC dated April 24, 2024 for professional grant services, subject to the approval of District Counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Congdon, Cashel and Reid

Nays: None

Discussion:

This is a grant that we've applied to in the past. We were awarded the grant two years ago but couldn't use it at the time because the funds were not going to be delivered in time for the project. We were encouraged to apply again; that's what this is. This time we have planned for the delay it may take in the grant funds being awarded, which can take up to 18 months. The Commission agreed that the cost of the grant writers was worth the potential award of the grant.

Eversource Lighting upgrade NL terminal:

This project will make the New London terminal more energy efficient, through things like putting in LEDs and reducing the number of lights. We're going to pay \$7,600 over 60 months at \$128 per month, which is expected to save \$80 monthly on the utility bill.

Commercial Leases:

Geb reminded the Commission that we have expenses coming up and we need to decide on a course of action to move forward. Geb suggested a one-time increase and three-year leases. Commissioner Congdon inquired if we are accounting for property taxes and insurance. Commissioner Cashel suggested longer leases, but not a one-time increase, as we need to account for increasing CPI. Commissioner Congdon brought up that we should make sure that whatever we're doing, we're applying it equally across all tenant types. Dave said that tenants have said they'd like longer term leases.

Schultz cleared a slab and asked if he can store materials there and tarp them. This will be considered along with the rest of the reviewing of the leases.

General Conversation:

Commissioner Reid suggested that we table the talk about reorganizing the flow of traffic until fall. Commissioner Cashel wants to talk about the fence. We could remove every other panel so that people can spread out a bit in that area. The posts may just be screwed on, and if that's the case, we can just take that part of fence down.

Commissioner Cashel suggested moving forward with utilizing the dock. The dock is 48 feet long, so you could fit four or five boats there. Commissioner Cashel suggested that whoever signs this lease must be willing to move over to 357, so that the police can move in depending on how conversations with the town go. This can likely be added to the lease. We can get someone in there year-round in September.

Executive Session:

At 5:10 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and legal matters.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays: None

At 5:44 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, and Reid

Nays: None

General Discussion:

Geb discussed the progress with the ferry design. The length is 170 feet – the same size as the Race Point. Commissioner Cashel asked about making the boat taller so that semi-trucks could fit underneath. Geb said that this is a stability issue. It can't be taller without making it wider and longer. As is, we will have to take out some current pilings to accommodate this width. It will be able to turn around in Silver Eel Cove, which also limits the length that the boat can be. Commissioner Congdon asked if the boat could go faster. To go faster, the boat would need to be longer or have a different hull or engine design.

The airport is going to be closed a week earlier so it may open back up a week earlier, but this is uncertain.

Commissioner Congdon moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Cashel seconding. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.