

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

May 5, 2025
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Cashel called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the “Ferry District”) to order on May 5, 2025 at 4:02 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Tom Cashel, Dianna Shillo, David Congdon, 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. Gordon Murphy from the Fishers Island Waste Management District was also in attendance.

Chair Cashel 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: Toldo Letter
4. Marine Update: Coast Guard inspection; addressing OSHA violations
5. Warrant: \$273,632.32
6. Budget Modification \$100,000
7. HR Rescind Replace
12. Other: Schultz pad for material storage
13. Executive: Real estate; legal
14. Next scheduled meetings –Monday May 19, 2025, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom.
15. Adjournment

Public Comment:

Jared Toldo was informed by management that he was in violation of his lease as he is permitted four vehicles on his property and has 14 (though this included trailers). These vehicles may also be in violation of the town code. He said that he will have things back cleaned up and within the boundaries within two weeks. Dave will follow up on the 19th to see if the terms of the lease are being met. This is not the first time that Jared has been in violation of the terms of his lease. On the one hand, there is a need to be firm about these violations, but on the other hand, a courteous response is an improvement. A letter will be proactively prepared for if things are not in order in two weeks, that would inform Jared that these violations and failure to address them will be taken into consideration upon review for renewal of the lease. Discussion ensued about the need to be consistent in application of lease terms. This is a highly visible site, and other contractors may also be in violation of the terms of their leases.

Gordon Murphy proposed a working group between the Fishers Island Ferry District and the Fishers Island Waste Management District to examine the property lines and determine a line that would be leased from the Ferry District because currently, there is some encroachment. Commissioner Jim Reid and Dave McCall will assist with this.

Marine Update:

The Coast Guard will be doing their annual inspection of both boats on May 15th, including a bomb threat drill. The Race Point had some preventative maintenance. Some of the steering mechanicals will be tuned up before things get busy. The anchor windless motor will be wrapped up by tomorrow afternoon.

Some of the loads on the boats may seem funny as it has been a bit of a challenge to balance the large loads of commercial material coming over. There was one trip that was a particular challenge, where the boat was loaded and it wasn't balanced. Ultimately, both Race Point and Munnatawket went over so everyone made it from New London. Also, vendors have now been informed that the Ferry will run extra trips as needed. Changing the spring schedule might address this, but it would create other challenges. For next year, the summer schedule could potentially start earlier, though this may just be a particularly busy spring.

The Coast Guard sent a notice that a number of buoys will be removed from the area. This would affect the ferry quite a bit as they are main buoys that the ferry navigates with. The Ferry District management responded to the notice with comments the day after it came out.

Respiratory fit testing and training for the crew is ongoing, as are additional wellness checks. Last week, Mystic Air Quality analyzed over 50 samples (25 per boat) of where there's lead and where there's not lead. The crew was tested and no one had elevated lead levels.

There is one more new hire who will join at the end of the month. Most people have started and the crew should be up to speed by Memorial Day weekend.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2025 –036

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated May 5, 2025 in the amount of \$273,632.32.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Discussion ensued about what properties these taxes are being paid on and whether they are being taxed correctly.

Budget Modification

RESOLUTION 2025 –037

TOS Resolution dated:

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District Hereby amends the

2025 Fishers Island Ferry District budget as follows:

Increase Expenditures:

SM5710.4.400.100 Expense: Marine

Engineering \$ 100,000.00

Total

\$ 100,000.00

Decrease Expenditures:

SM.5710.2.000.200 Expense: Repairs: Race Point

\$ 100,000.00

Total

\$ 100,000.00

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays:

Discussion:

Discussion ensued about how these funds will be moved around for the next meeting, modifications which the town is aware of.

RESCIND

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 Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Reid, and Shillo

Nays: None

REPLACE

HR NEW HIRE

RESOLUTION 2025-038

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

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 17, 2025, Mathew Goulart-Peishot 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-Peishot from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 15, 2025, Mr. Goulart-Peishot will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Reid

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

Security Grant – Dock Lighting Award

RESOLUTION 2025 –039

WHEREAS the Fishers Island Ferry District (The FIFD) was awarded a Port Security Grant to upgrade our outdoor light at our Fishers Island Terminal: and

WHEREAS the FIFD had initially awarded the project to Lafleche Electric with Resolution 2023-183; and now the FIFD wishes to release LaFleche Electric from the project due to unforeseen conditions.

THEREFORE, as a Request for Proposals was re-issued and advertised in a widely circulated publication: and

WHEREAS one proposal was received, evaluated and conforms to the published specifications; and

WHEREAS the proposal from Dicin Electric of \$17,928.00, is the most responsible bid:

THEREFORE, it is Resolved that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District accepts the proposal from Dicin Electric to install dock lighting for \$17,928.00;

It is further Resolved to authorize management to execute contract and ancillary documents for this project after review by District Counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

Other:

Craig Schultz cleared a 60'x20' concrete pad near his property and asked if he could store material there. This increases his square footage, so the standard square footage lease formula will be used to determine a cost. An addendum will be added to the lease.

This brought up further conversation about the state of all the leases. Currently, the leases are month-to-month and management is ready to move forward with updates if the Commission is.

Executive Session:

At 4:45 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 Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Reid

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Shillo, and Reid

Nays: None

At 5:39 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Shillo, and Reid

Nays: None

General Discussion:

The new ramps look good.

There is crack filling foam in the millings, which is visible as it is white. Action will be taken to remediate this.

Commissioner Shillo moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Reid seconding.
Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.