

Fishers Island Ferry District  
MINUTES  
Board of Commissioners

May 19, 2025  
General Meeting at 4:00pm  
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

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Chair Jim Reid called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on May 19, 2025 at 4:00 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 and Jon Haney were present via Zoom.

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: Tom Sargent/Conservancy
4. Marine Update: Coast Guard inspections and boat schedules
5. Warrant: \$68,685.04
6. HR New Hire
7. HR Part Time to Summer Seasonal
8. Professional Services/Marine Chemist
9. Other: One way tickets
12. Executive: Real estate and legal
13. Next scheduled meetings –Tuesday June 3, 2025, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom.
14. Adjournment

**Public Comment:**

Tom Sargent submitted a letter from the FI Conservancy with a general update, as required per the agreement between the FIFD and the FI Conservancy.

Discussion ensued about the nesting shorebird fencing and signage near the Race, as some people have complained.

## **Marine Update:**

For the church golf tournament, the last boat on Sunday is typically run thirty minutes later than usual (7:45 pm instead of 7:15 pm). The crew was aware and it was changed in Anchor, but some walk-ons were unaware of the time change. There should've been a banner on the website, and if we had a strong social media presence, it could've been communicated via social media. Changes like this need to be communicated more effectively.

This past Thursday, the Coast Guard inspected both boats. A technician came to prove the operation of the CO<sup>2</sup> suppression, and the bomb threat drill also happened. This ended up being a lot, and in future, we'll go back to having the inspections on different days. As is, the suppression test on CO<sup>2</sup> for Race Point will be finished tomorrow. There was preventative maintenance on the Race Point. When the steering room blasting wall was painted, there were some mechanical features for the steering in the room that got the blasting grit in them. There will be new potentiometers and relays in the steering room, which will be done by tomorrow morning.

The only change to the schedule for Memorial Day Weekend from last year is based on statistics from 2024; we added an 11:00 am Munnatawket on Friday and Monday. Multiple boats on Thursday and Friday are sold out. Additional midday boats cannot be added, so any extra boats would have to be in the morning or late evening, and those boats aren't booked out yet.

Empire Paving had a few charter requests, as they were delayed by weather and test strip failures. That also affected last week's schedule.

The Coast Guard came over for their unannounced spot check of the Fishers Island freight office, which happens once per year. Some of the signage needs to be improved for secure areas. Outbound packages must be secured in between boats in a cage — that was moved at some point and had to go back. Dave went over the corrections with the FI freight staff. The Coast Guard also checked the New London freight office. The cage had to go back inside, which was resolved by the end of the day. There was also an issue with a lack of training. We can do better on our security training and drills by including the Fishers Island side in New London trainings at least via Zoom. Dave will also run a drill on the Fishers Island side.

Commissioner Cashel expressed a desire to tighten up the security policy of not allowing people to come on and off the boat, especially as summer traffic increases and crew members won't necessarily recognize people. New and current crew members are being prepped for a more intense summer season.

There are eight boats leaving Fishers Island on Monday, four of which are sold out. More boats could be run, but only at the morning or the end of the day, which are the boats that still have openings. There's no room to run more midday boats.

## **Warrant**

### **RESOLUTION 2025 –040**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated May 19, 2025 in the amount of \$68,685.04.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

## **HR New HIRE**

### **RESOLUTION 2025-041**

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect May 29<sup>th</sup> 2025, Samantha Silva as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$17.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Ms. Silva from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 15, 2025, Ms. Silva will terminate her summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

## **HR Part Time to Seasonal**

### **RESOLUTION 2025-042**

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional full-time Deckhands (FIFD), Cashiers, Captains, Junior Captains and Stagers during the peak season between May 29, 2025, and September 16, 2025;

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 29, 2025 Izabel Scroxton as summer seasonal Laborer (FIFD).

On September 15, 2025, Izabel Scroxton will terminate their summer seasonal positions and on September 16, 2025 be re-appointed to part-time status (FIFD).

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 29, 2025 Jeffrey Reynolds, Catherine Keating and Robert Drozynski as summer seasonal Deckhands (FIFD).

On September 15, 2025, Jeffrey Reynolds, Catherine Keating and Robert Drozynski will terminate their summer seasonal positions and on September 16, 2025 be re-appointed to part-time Deckhands (FIFD).

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 29, 2025 Christopher Newell as summer seasonal Captain (FIFD).

On September 15, 2025, Christopher Newell will terminate their summer seasonal positions and on September 16, 2025 be re-appointed to part-time Captain (FIFD).

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 29, 2025 Joshua Henry as summer seasonal Junior Captain (FIFD).

On September 15, 2025, Joshua Henry will terminate their summer seasonal positions and on September 16, 2025 be re-appointed to part-time Junior Captain (FIFD).

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

Discussion ensued about the potential need to evaluate raises for summer seasonal employees. The understanding is that all the necessary people were on the list that was reviewed in January.

**Professional Services/ Marine Chemist**

**Resolution 2025-043**

WHEREAS, Donald Raffo is a Certified Marine Chemist with Northeast Marine Inspection, Inc. and will certify confined spaces for entry; and

WHEREAS, the Fishers Island Ferry District (FIFD) has employees who are trained in confined space entry and will need to enter a confined space on our vessels; and

WHEREAS, Donald Raffo is a Certified Marine Chemist with Northeast Marine Inspection, Inc., will prepare a Confined Space Program for the FIFD for \$3,120.00 as well as provide permitting services for \$500.00 per entry, not to exceed \$4000.00; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District that it would not be in the best interest of the FIFD to seek alternate proposals or quotations from other firms who are not local or possess expertise in the field.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Reid and Shillo

Nays: None

**Other:**

Dicin came over today, assembled 4 of the 5 lights, and took down two of the old lights. The lights are photovoltaic, so they turn off and on depending on sun exposure. One has a video camera and wireless functionality on it, so that one will be tricky to replace. The brightness may have to be adjusted to make sure that it works for the captains and the neighbors. Dave expressed concern about the durability of the lenses.

We will have complete construction drawing for the new ferry by the end of June. We need to have a clear understanding of how we will pay for this before it goes out to bid, but we are moving forward. The planning process is down to details such as lighting. It's almost ready to be shared with the public, and we need to decide how to proceed with communicating this. We could have a community meeting at the Community Center with the architects onscreen. The estimated cost is \$15–\$18 million, but that value will be updated in June. Commissioner Shillo suggested starting a communications push this summer, as this process will be ready to move forward by next summer. Commissioner Cashel agreed that the project should be shared with the public this summer, but expressed concern about the availability of federal grants, and funding sources in their absence. He broached the idea of donations as a source of funding. Geb suggested the six-pager that was previously shared with the BoC as a starting point for information to be shared with the public. Commissioner Shillo suggested planning to communicate this in August, so that we will know if the grant is available (as it is slated to be announced in June). Commissioner Cashel also inquired about what due diligence processes are happening to see what is on the market.

Geb brought up the idea of increasing the price of the one-way ticket from \$15 to \$20. The Board of Commissioners was supportive of this idea, so Geb will write a resolution on it for next meeting.

For real estate, we raised the rate 10% three years ago with three-year leases. We're now six months into an extension on those leases. Should the extension be extended? Commissioner Congdon noted that the FIFD could be better about making improvements to properties and making a comprehensive plan. Commissioner Cashel suggested that we use the consumer price index to determine an increase. This conversation transitioned into executive.

**Executive Session:**

At 5:02 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Shillo, and Reid

Nays: None

At 5:41 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Cashel, Congdon, Shillo, and Reid

Nays: None

**General Discussion:**

The next meeting is moved to June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm.

Commissioner Shillo moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Burnham seconding.  
Meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.