

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

April 13
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Burnham called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the “Ferry District”) to order on April 13, 2026, at 4:02 pm at the Fishers Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Heather Burnham, Tom Cashel, David Congdon, and Dianna Shillo were present at the Community Center, as were Dave McCall and Jessica NeJame. Geb Cook, Jon Haney, and Commissioner Jim Reid were present via Zoom.

Chair Burnham 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: None
4. Marine Update: Interviews, fencing, boat design, scheduling events
5. Warrant: \$48,962.70
6. Minutes 1Q
7. HR New Hires 6
8. Other: Koitz container, new boat funding, fuel surcharge
9. Executive: Resident applications
10. Next scheduled meetings – April 27, 2026 4pm
11. Adjourn

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Marine Update:

There were a number of interviews last week, all good candidates.

The captains have been experimenting with ways to improve fuel efficiency by alternating the RPMs on the boat. At 9 knots, we can keep our departure and arrival times the same. With a fair tide, we can operate in a way that saves us 65 gallons in a day.

There will be a scope of work submitted soon for the New London perimeter fencing repairs.

Glosten determined that a single caliper pneumatic shaft brake will fit on the new boat without requiring modifications to the hull, though it is tight. Shaft brake installation will help with the boat with the quick shifting, especially on the Fishers Island side. Commissioner Cashel asked if this could create problems later on, like with replacing the pads. Jon said that it shouldn't; the pads that we need to change will be up higher and accessible to the mechanics.

There was a call this afternoon about a possible birthday party on August 1st. This will probably be a big transition day for rentals, but this boat would be in the evening, maybe 7 pm and 10 pm, so rental transitions wouldn't affect it. As for other events, on June 6th, there are two weddings; then the weekend after, there's another; then another the weekend after that. John is working on nailing down exactly what they need.

When we hauled the boat out, we had the electrolysis problem on the port propellor. A diver did an inspection last week and saw that some electrolysis has continued. Jon talked to Fairhaven and they're going to finalize a time to come back and see if there's a stray current in the water at the terminal. If the current isn't coming from the boat, which they said it wasn't at the shipyard, it could be coming from somewhere else, like the new Coast Guard museum or the train. We're trying to test everything before we end up with more issues or expenses. Right now, we have the three-bladed spares on. We have one good five-bladed prop. We purchased a single prop that should arrive any day.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2026 –039

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated April 13, 2026, in the amount of \$48,962.70.

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays:

Minutes

RESOLUTION 2026-000

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the following Minutes:

January 5, 2026
January 19, 2026
February 2, 2026
February 16, 2026
March 2, 2026
March 16, 2026
March 30, 2026

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Ayes:

Nays:

Tabled

HR

RESOLUTION 2026-040

WHEREAS the manager has recommended that Deckhand Mark Chanski be promoted from part-time to full-time deckhand.

Therefore, it is RESOLVED that Mark Chanski be promoted to full-time deckhand with no change in pay effective April 23, 2026.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Mark used to work for the ferry and is coming back from Plum Island. The long-term goal is for him to become a captain on the Munnatawket.

HR

RESOLUTION 2026-041

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore, it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 23, 2026, William Toivonen as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 11, 2026, Mr. Toivonen from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 21, 2026, Mr. Toivonen will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Bill used to work here and has had a long career with Exxon. He is now just looking for a couple shifts a week.

HR

RESOLUTION 2026-042

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 23, 2026, Thomas Quiles as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 11, 2026 Mr. Quiles from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 21, 2026, Mr. Quiles will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Tom is a referral from one of the current deckhands, who is excellent, and who has referred a number of excellent employees. Geb and Jon are working on establishing a reward for referrals.

HR

RESOLUTION 2026-043

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore, it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 23, 2026, Michael Sormrude as a part-time

Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$19.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 11, 2026, Mr. Sormrude from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 21, 2026, Mr. Sormrude will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Michael is an adjunct professor looking for weekend and summer work.

HR

RESOLUTION 2026-044

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 23, 2026, Paul Nickerson as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 11, 2026 Mr. Nickerson from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 21, 2026, Mr. Nickerson will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Paul is also from Plum Island and came highly recommended. He is looking for just weekends, which is perfect for what we need.

HR

RESOLUTION 2026-045

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Deckhands (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect April 23, 2026, Paul Klee as a part-time Deckhand (FIFD) at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect May 11, 2026 Mr. Klee from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 21, 2026, Mr. Klee will terminate his summer seasonal position (FIFD) and return to part-time status.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Paul just moved here from California and has open availability.

This is a good batch of people, but we still need more. Dave will look into making a post for FishersIsland.net.

Other:

Koitz would like to rent a slab and place a container on it. This could be next to Jimmy Ski's, but we'd have to clear it out. Commissioner Burnham asked if he is an employee or a subcontractor of BD, because if he's an employee, BD should be finding the space. Dave will determine this.

Al Krupski sent a letter laying out requirements for an audit as we seek funding for the new boat. Our auditor is on it already and we should have a preliminary version by June. We need to be ready to engage with the auditor on this and finish with what we've been doing with Emil.

Geb is working with grant writers in anticipation of the 2026 ferry boat grant program, though it's unclear if funds will actually be available.

There's a blood drive in June and August. We will again provide free transport for the van and phlebotomists.

Commissioner Congdon suggested a public forum where we present the new boat design. Commissioner Burnham clarified that we've communicated about the new boat, but what we haven't communicated about is how we're going to pay for it, because we don't yet have a handle on it. Geb suggested that we have another forum once we have a chunk of funding secured, so we can say, "This is what we have and this is what we need." This is something Emil can help with, or we can hire a professional consultant. Geb will also reach out to other ferries to seek out resources and connections to help inform this financial decision. This line item should be on every agenda so that we keep talking about it.

Fuel surcharge update: We've now filled up three times since fuel prices started rising. We are \$22,000 over budget on fuel. We have collected \$4,600 on the fuel surcharge.

Executive Session:

At 4:58 pm, the following resolution was proposed:

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

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, and Congdon

Nays: None

At 5:16 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 Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, and Congdon

Nays: None

Next meeting is April 27.

Commissioner Cashel moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Shillo seconding.
Meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm.