

Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

May 26, 2026
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 May 26, 2026, at 4:01 pm at the Fishers Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Tom Cashel, David Congdon, Dianna Shillo, and Heather Burnham were present at the Community Center, as were Geb Cook, Dave McCall, and Jessica NeJame. Jon Haney was 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: Traffic; commercial space
5. Warrant \$79,455.65
6. HR Resignations
7. HR PT to Seasonal
8. HR New Hire
9. 2025 Audit
10. Health Plan renewal
11. Fuel surcharge update
12. Insurance discussion
13. Other: Residency application; rental
14. Executive: None
15. Next scheduled meetings – June 8, 2026, 4pm Monday
16. Adjourn

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Marine Update:

Overall, the Memorial Day weekend was uneventful. Compared to last year, there wasn't a huge difference in passengers. There was a big difference in cars, with 40 less this year than last year. There were only three full boats up until yesterday.

Will Fiske called on behalf of St. John's Church. He asked about booking a charter to get some stained glass that went over for repair back over to the island and wanted to see if we can reduce the charter rate. Discussion ensued. In the past, we've made dispensation for passengers, but not materials. The board does not approve this request and discussed establishing a policy about this.

Race Point is offline because the deck needs to be painted and the Coast Guard inspection is tomorrow. The weddings have taken up a lot of deck space that contractors would normally use. Commissioner Burnham suggested that we add two or three commercial boats to the schedule next week when the Race Point is back. Commissioner Shillo suggested that Jon reach out directly to the contractors to see if they have materials they can send over next week if boats are added.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2026 –000

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated May 26, 2026 in the amount of \$79,455.65

Moved by: Commissioner Cashel

Seconded by: Commissioner Shillo

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays:

HR - RESIGNATION

RESOLUTION 2025 – 000

WHEREAS, the following employees have resigned from their positions as Part-Time Deckhands (FIFD) effective May 14, 2026:

Kyle Bentley
Chris Moon

And, WHEREAS the following employee has resigned from her position as a Part-Time Cashier, effective May 14, 2026

Katherine Cassidy

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts the resignation of the above named Employees with effect May 14, 2026.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

HR Part Time to Seasonal

RESOLUTION 2026-000

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional full-time Deckhands (FIFD), Cashiers, Captains, Junior Captains and Laborers during the peak season between June 3, 2026, and September 21, 2026;

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect June 3, 2026 Izabel Scroxton as summer seasonal Laborer (FIFD).

On September 21, 2026, Izabel Scroxton will terminate their summer seasonal positions and on September 22, 2026 be re-appointed to part-time status (FIFD).

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect June 3, 2026 Jeffrey Reynolds, Matthew Tobin, Charles Parham, Andrew Nicholas and Catherine Keating as summer seasonal Deckhands (FIFD).

On September 21, 2026, Jeffrey Reynolds, Matthew Tobin, Charles Parham, Andrew Nicholas and Catherine Keating will terminate their summer seasonal positions and on September 22, 2026 be re-appointed to part-time Deckhands (FIFD).

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect June 3, 2026 Christopher Newell as summer seasonal Captain (FIFD).

On September 21, 2026, Christopher Newell will terminate his summer seasonal position and on September 22, 2026 be re-appointed to part-time Captain (FIFD).

Therefore it is RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect June 3, 2026 Joshua Henry and Vince Harring as summer seasonal Junior Captains (FIFD).

On September 21, 2026, Joshua Henry and Vince Harring will terminate their summer seasonal positions and on September 22, 2026 be re-appointed to part-time Junior Captain (FIFD).

All rates referenced for the above titles will remain the same.

Moved by: Commissioner Congdon

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

HR New Hire

RESOLUTION 2026-000

WHEREAS the Ferry District requires additional Laborers (FIFD);

Therefore it is RESOLVED to appoint, with effect June 3, 2026, Lillian Calabrese as a part-time Laborer (FIFD) at a rate of \$17.00 per hour.

It is further RESOLVED to temporarily appoint with effect June 4, 2026, Ms. Calabrese from part-time to full-time summer seasonal status. On September 21, 2026, Ms. Calabrese will terminate her summer seasonal position and on September 22, 2026 be re-appointed to part-time Laborer (FIFD).

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Cashel

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

2026 Audit Expense

Resolution 2026-000

WHEREAS, the Fishers Island Ferry District (FIFD) has an option to renew its contract with EFPR Group, CPA, PLLC (EFPR) for fiscal year 2025.

WHEREAS, EFPR has proposed \$18,500 for the 2025 Financial Audit, and \$5,200 for a Single Audit related to FAA Runway improvements.

AND, WHEREAS the Town of Southold requires that the FIFD perform an Independent Audit related to the Proposed Ferry Vessel Acquisition and EFPR because of its historical financial knowledge of the FIFD is best suited to perform that audit for \$175/hr not to exceed \$14,000.

THEREFORE, it is RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the FIFD accepts the engagement letter and ferry audit proposal from EFPR.

It is further RESOLVED to authorize management to execute all contracts and ancillary documents and pay all reviewed invoices, subject to review by counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Legal/Health Insurance

RESOLUTION 2026-000

WHEREAS the District desires to put in place new health insurance coverage for its qualified employees commencing July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS the insurance broker Risk Strategies presented an insurance option; and

WHEREAS the Oxford Bronze PPO HRA 7000 health insurance plan (the "Plan") was selected based on coverage and terms; and

WHEREAS the Oxford Bronze PPO HRA 7000 health insurance plan is a high deductible plan and a Health Reimbursement Account ("HRA") can be combined with this health insurance plan, requiring the services of a third-party HRA plan administrator, and Progressive Benefit Solutions, LLC was selected to provide these services; and

WHEREAS the District through the HRA will reimburse employees enrolled in the Plan up to \$5,000 per single employee or up to \$10,000 per enrollee greater than a single employee for Plan year out-of-pocket expenses; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that commencing July 1, 2026, the District shall make available to its qualified employees the Oxford Bronze PPO HSA 7000 health insurance plan; and

be it further RESOLVED that management is authorized to execute all documents relating to the Plan subject to review by counsel; and

be it further RESOLVED that commencing July 1, 2026 the District authorizes management to execute all documents relating to establishment of and oversight over a HRA with Progressive Benefit Solutions, LLC subject to review by counsel; and

be it further RESOLVED that for the year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2026 only, the District shall fund the HRA sufficiently to reimburse employees enrolled in the Plan up to \$5,000 per single employee or up to \$10,000 per enrollee greater than a single employee for plan year out-of-pocket expenses; and

be it further RESOLVED that management be authorized and instructed to work with Risk Strategies to review any other related documents and in general to finalize and put in place these two related health care coverage programs commencing July 1, 2026 subject to review by District counsel.

Moved by: Commissioner Shillo

Seconded by: Commissioner Congdon

Ayes: Commissioners Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, and Shillo

Nays: None

Discussion:

Insurance rates are going up 16% this year for us. Discussion ensued about alternative insurers and finding a way to get Connecticut-based insurance. Since the ferry is based in New York, we have New York health insurance. There's a possibility that we have a critical mass of Connecticut employees to get insurance over there, allowing employees to see local providers. This is a project for next year.

Other:

Some family members of Islanders have moved out here and applied for residency cards. Dave will wait for them to meet four months and then get them their cards.

A contractor is trying to get a forty-foot container out here and Dave is working on that.

Commissioner Cashel brought up that a New York driver's license should be a firm requirement as it is a tax benefit.

Geb has been working on getting the Ferry Boat Funds. We have to apply by July 15 to secure \$179,000 by September 30.

There have been some complaints about the fuel surcharge being on the reservation fee because the reservation doesn't involve fuel. The surcharge was applied on all ticketing.

Geb will send out some numbers to the Board with an update on the gap between budgeted and actual spending on fuel.

Commissioner Burnham brought up the idea of ferry swag, like t-shirts.

Executive Session:

There was no executive session.

Next meeting is June 8, 2026 at 4 pm.

Commissioner Shillo moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Cashel seconding. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.