**Meeting Minutes**

**Maine State Ferry Advisory Board**

Thursday January 20th

10:30 AM via ZOOM

1. Roll Call

Matinicus-Eva Murray (by phone); Islesboro-John King; North Haven-Jon Emerson; Swan’s Island-Kathy Clark; Frenchboro-Duncan Bond;

Mainland: Dennis Damon, Hank Berg

MaineDOT: Bill Pulver, Dave Bernhardt, Mark Higgins, Mike McKenna, Joel Perry

Dennis moderated the meeting.

1. Introduction of Visitors

Vinalhaven-Andy Dorr; Nick Batista-Island Institute; Lisa Millete-Island Institute

1. Approval of the Minutes

Jon Emerson called for the approval of the previous meeting minutes and they were approved.

1. Communications
2. To or by the Board-None
3. To or by the MSFS/MaineDOT-Dave spoke about the specific issues the ferry service is having in relation to Covid, and the possibility of upcoming interruptions of service. Hank mentioned that Casco Bay was also having the same issues. There was then a discussion on the possibility of the MSFS putting out a statement on Covid issues. Mark and Dave discussed involving Paul Merrill (MaineDOT’s Public Information Officer) to draft something up. Dave also explained the State’s vaccination policy. John then discussed the Islesboro survey about the vessels and that it had been delivered to the MSFS. John King noted that the 511 system is working very well recently when it comes to Ferry Service notices.
4. Financial Subcommittee-John discussed the findings from the subcommittee and referenced the attached report. Dave then spoke on the fact that the MaineDOT Workplan is now out and available to the public and cited that the MSFS is referenced. The plan includes engineering funds to look at additional parking for Rockland and Lincolnville, funding for the Smith, and Libby. Dave also mentioned that we have begun to investigate funding for the upcoming electric vessels.
5. Vote in the Virtual Meetings Policy-Bill spoke on the adoption of the Remote Meeting Participation Policy. There was a short discussion about it and then a unanimous vote to adopt. (6-0)
6. Reports of the Board

None

1. Reports of the Ferry Service
2. Vessel Status Report-Mark spoke on the status of all the vessels and attached a report.
3. Staffing Report-MSFS is having weekly meetings with Rachel Kennedy in HR to try to stay ahead of staffing demand and interviewing weekly. Andy brought up an apparent wage gap being a problem with staffing, and Mark discussed the percentage increases coming to all state workers. Bill also spoke about the State’s pay system and the process it takes to adjust pay scales for State employees.
4. Financial Reports-Mike highlighted some specific areas on his attached financial report including the fair box, parking, and total revenue being up. Bill responded to John King that the revenue graphs are showing that ticket revenues continue to come in slightly above the model used to set the latest rates.
5. Island Specific Issues

Frenchboro makeup trips were discussed as the current Monday makeups aren’t working. There will be ongoing discussion between Frenchboro and Swan’s Island on how to better address the issue. Andy brought up the issue of enforcing masking on the vessels, and Mark reiterated the MSFS policy and the difficultly with enforcing.

1. New Business
2. Naming of the new hybrid ferry-Kathy mentioned Al Dinsmore as a possible candidate.

Mark suggested the Governor Curtis II since the Curtis will be retired.

1. Chair Nomination-Dennis brought up the fact that Eva was looking to step away as Chair of the Board, and Jon Emerson was nominated and voted in unanimously.

1. Old Business

Fall schedule changes for the Islesboro Ferry were brought up by John. He is hoping for a tracking of left behinds and an update in March. Mark spoke on the possibility of altering or eliminating the Fall schedule and just going to a Summer and Winter schedule.

Joel gave a quick update on the new ticketing system for the Ferry service and the hopes that it could be rolled out in mid-March.

1. Next Meeting/Adjournment

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 17th at 10:30am

Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm