

**Maine State Ferry Advisory Board**  
**~Meeting Minutes~**  
**Thursday November 17th**  
**10:30 AM via ZOOM**

**1. Roll Call**

*Islands: Jon Emerson/North Haven, Phil Crossman/Vinalhaven, Sonny Sprague/Swans Island, Gabe Pendleton/Islesboro, Eva Murray/Matinicus, Kathy Clark/ Swans Island, Duncan Bond/Frenchboro*

*MDOT: Bill Pulver, David Bernhardt, Kyle Hall, Robert (Henry) McFeren, Gregg Goggin, Mark Higgins, Joel Perry, Abby Baker.*

*Mainland: Hank Berg/ Casco Bay Lines*

**2. Introduction of Visitors**

*Visitor: Ben Staples, Deborah Staples, Lisa Millete, Alex Ziparo, Abigail Dy, Jeff Klapp, Donna Wiegler/Swans Island EMS.*

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

*Jon Emerson- Moved to Approve Minutes from Meeting on September 15, 2022, Sonny Sprague and Duncan Bond motioned in agreement. Closing note- was stated and asked more details should be provided.*

**4. Communications**

**a) To or by the Board-** *Nothing was brought up.*

**b) To or by the MSFS/MDOT-** *it was quickly mentioned about (Mark Higgins) receiving (3) letters from Swans Island, and additionally a statement from a SI family, regarding the emergency trips and lack of them on the island. Also stated to be discussed in further detail at later point.*

- **M&O Leadership Changes-** *quickly discussed changes within MaineDOT Leadership. New introductions were made for Kyle Hall and Henry McFeren, MaineDot's Director, and Asst. Director of the Bureau of Maintenance and Operations respectively. Dave Bernhardt has taken a new position within MaineDOT but will be assisting in transition of his ferry service responsibilities to Henry.*
- **Emergency Trip Protocol-** *Leading off point earlier. Inconsistencies, dependent on crew on duty. Since July –four emergency trips were not performed on Swan's Island. There was quite a lot of discussion for this topic. Concerns were voiced from some island's representatives and Board visitors of their*

*need for emergency ferry transport upon request. –Mark read the MSFS policy on emergency trips. Bill stated there is a long history of Coast Guard communications regarding regulations and requirements for emergency trips, including exploring other options and that all crew members need to be available and fit for service. The USCG “12-hour rule” is a key federal requirement that comes into play, as well as the fact that the crew is not on stand-by status.*

- c) Financial Subcommittee – Had Meeting Monday.** *Regarding the Financial Report. Gabriel Pendleton, Jon King, Jon Emerson asked about the differences between PREM OT and STRAIGHT OT. Mark replied- It depends on the job classification depending on whether the employee was an AB, Engineer, or Captain. PREM was 1.5 hours of hourly rate and Straight was at 1 hour of hourly rate. Captains were the only ones receiving just Straight OT.*

*Variances- Wondering about the differences in dates, how bills come in vs how/ when they go out.*

*HealthCare costs, Fuel.*

*Bill Pulver/ Gregg Goggin- Explained that the timing of Highway Fund deposits can impact how the Variance Report reflects State revenues.*

- d) Legislative Review-** *Nothing new to Report.*

5. **Reports of the Board-** *Nothing too report.*

6. **Reports of the Ferry Service**

- a) Vessel Status Report-** *See attachment. ALMER Dinsmore is the correct name.*

- b) Staffing Report-** *Just hired an AB. Still 3 Short currently. A few ABs are on FML- so it's still a critical position.*

- **Recruitment & Retention update-** *Pay Stipends for the crews have just been approved through a formal State process in attempt to fill vacancies and retain existing crew members.*

- c) Financial Reports** *Greg suggested there was not really anything different to report that what the financial Sub-Committee already had. Gabe expressed thanks for getting the variance report to them in time to review before the meeting. Bill said the thanks go to Greg for pulling everything together, and that how soon the report can be provided is very dependent on the timing of the Boards meeting.*

7. **Island Specific Issues**

*Sonny Sprague/ Swans Island- Emergency Trip issue was addressed earlier in meeting.*

*Jon Emerson/ North Haven- Nothing to Report*

Phil Crossman/ Vinalhaven- Nothing to Report- Stated again his appreciation for the Vinalhaven Terminal and all the Employees there.

Eva Murray/ Matinicus- Nothing too Report. Appreciation again for the Rockland Terminal in the last year.

Duncan Bond/ Frenchboro- Nothing to Report.

8. **New Business** *Nothing new to Report.*

9. **Old Business** *Nothing new to Report.*

10. **Next Meeting/Adjournment** *Next Meeting will be Thursday January 19, 2023 at 10:30 am*