

Maine State Ferry Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes- Draft

Thursday 11/21/24 10:30 AM via ZOOM

1. **Roll Call**

Advisory- Jon Emerson, Dennis Damon, Duncan Bond, Jan Keiper, Alan Barker, Peter Wilcox, Eva Murray, Sonny Sprague, Tom Luttrell, Jamie Laney-Hersey

DOT- Bill Geary, Henry McFerren, Bill Pulver, Danielle Molloy, Joel Perry, Alex Anderson

2. **Introduction of Visitors**

Bill Banks, Peter Drury, Rebekah Gary Farley, Anne Matlock, Frankie St. Amand

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

Alan Barker makes a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Duncan Bond. Unanimous approval.

4. **Communications**

a) **To or by the Board**

b) **To or by the MSFS/MDOT**

Letter from both Swan's Island and Frenchboro on winter schedule. Final decision on any edits to the schedule will be made soon and communicated to the respective parties. It was suggested that the Director updates that are posted on Facebook be posted on the MSFS website as well.

c) **Legislative Review**

Nothing new to report.

5. **Reports of the Board**

None

6. **Reports of the Ferry Service**

a) **Ridership**

Information was provided on YTD and Peak Season ridership for each island and total for MSFS.

b) **Vessel Status Report**

Information was provided on the status of each ferry and upcoming dry dock repairs. It was requested that the bid package link be sent to the Advisory Board members on the M/V George Mitchell.

c) **Staffing Report**

Information was provided on the status of open positions at the MSFS.

d) **Financial Subcommittee Report**

Finance sub-committee presented their report. It was noted that questions were asked on the total amount spent on contract mariners, specifically on Seaward.

7. **Island Specific Issues**

1. **Frenchboro** – none
2. **Matinicus** - none
3. **North Haven** – expressed concerns on the long-term strategy of having the ferries overnight on the mainland.
4. **Swan's Island** -
Concerns were brought up on the winter schedule and also on the long-term strategy of having the ferries overnight on the mainland.
Islesboro – Concerns were brought up on the long-term strategy of having the ferries overnight on the mainland.
5. **Vinalhaven** -
Concerns were brought up on the long-term strategy of having the ferries overnight on the mainland. Concerns were brought up on winter schedule on moving the last ferry to later times and the Sunday schedule. Discussed that Tariff 10.1 had a portion under municipal priorities that was supposed to be removed. Action item – a revision of the tariff, now 10.2, will be forthcoming to eliminate this portion. Question was asked about reinstating the pilot program of having vehicle only reservations back on the “Day Boat”.

8. **New Business**

1. Alan Barker provided and brought up house and senate proposals on the 50/50 split and wanted clarification. Representative Matlock researched and found that both proposals were withdrawn.

9. **Old Business**

1. **Bylaws**
Discussion on changes to the Bylaws at the next scheduled meeting with the following proposed changes:
 1. Article I Section 3 – Reporting: Change month from June to August
 2. Throughout the Bylaws: Update Ferry Manager to Director
 3. Article IV Section 1: Update to include proposed agenda also included on the MSFS website.

10. **Next Meeting/Adjournment**

1. Next regularly scheduled Advisory Board meeting will be on 1/23/24 at 10:30am.
2. Adjournment: Duncan Bond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan Barker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.