

Maine State Ferry Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes- Draft

Thursday 9/19/24 10:30 AM via ZOOM

1. **Roll Call**

Advisory- Jon Emerson, Marjorie Straton, Kathy Clark, Dennis Damon, Duncan Bond, Jan Keiper

DOT- Bill Geary, Derek Dostie, Henry McFerren, Bill Pulver, Matt Higgins, Joel Perry, Alex Anderson,

2. **Introduction of Visitors**

Alex Zipparo, Bill Banks, Peter Drury

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

Marjorie Straton makes motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Kathy Clark and unanimously approved.

4. **Communications**

a) **To or by the Board**

Jon Emerson- Read a letter sent to the Advisory Board from the crew of the Maine State Ferry Service on concerns of the short-term retention bonuses and the support of the Advisory Board for longer term solutions. Discussion on agreement with the union on retention bonus and overtime rates through December 31, 2024.

Dennis Demon made the following motion: To write a letter expressing our belief that the MSFS is a vital transportation link that needs to be supported. We urge you to give this the fullest attention and greatest support. Letter to be sent to Governor Janet Mills and Commissioner Bruce Van Note on copy.

Duncan Bond seconded the motion.

Unanimous approval with Dennis Damon appointed to write the letter.

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

None

c) **Legislative Review**

Bill Pulver- Nothing new to report.

5. **Reports of the Board**

None

6. **Reports of the Ferry Service**

a) **Ridership**

Information was provided on MTD and YTD 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.

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 requested that the financial data be provided at least one week in advance of the Advisory Board meeting.

7. **Island Specific Issues**

1. **Frenchboro** – none

2. **Matinicus** - none

3. **North Haven** - none

4. **Swan's Island** -

Concerns were brought up on transfer bridge issues and Prock Marine responding to emergencies on the weekend.

Brought up concerns on the Frenchboro cancelation policy.

5. **Islesboro** - none

6. **Vinalhaven** -

Concerns were brought up on the overflow of trash at the transfer station. Request made for special priorities to take care of the issue.

8. **New Business**

1. **Winter Schedules**

Winter schedules were provided to each Advisory Board member for review. North Haven requested that the missing Thanksgiving trip be added back in.

2. **Minutes**

Discussion from Bill Geary on not writing out the minutes word for word and doing a more general overview and posting the video of the meeting on the MSFS.

3. **Rockland Parking**

Discussion on the new parking traffic pattern in Rockland that is a trial basis planned for October 7, 2024.

9. **Old Business**

1. **Bylaws**

Discussion on reviewing the bylaws for next board meeting and making motions to revise as needed.

10. **Next Meeting/Adjournment**

1. At the request of the Commissioner, a special Advisory board meeting will be held on 10/10/24 at 10:30am.

2. Next regularly scheduled Advisory Board meeting will be on 11/21/24 at 10:30am.

3. Adjournment: Marjorie Straton made motion to adjourn. Jon Emerson seconded. Unanimous approval to adjourn.