Fishers Island Ferry District
MINUTES
Board of Commissioners

September 15, 2025
General Meeting at 4:00pm
Fishers Island Community Center and Zoom

Chair Shillo called a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District (the "Ferry District") to order on September 15, 2025, at 4:04 PM at the Island Community Center and via Zoom.

Commissioners Dianna Shillo, David Congdon, Jim Reid, Heather Burnham, and Tom Cashel were present at the Community Center, as were Dave McCall and Jessica NeJame. Geb Cook and Jon Haney were present via Zoom.

Chair Shillo 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: Gina Scumaci letter, Louis Horn email, Jon Doucette on behalf of Fishers Island Fire Department
4. Marine Update: PIDP Grant, July/August traffic
5. Warrant: $43,656.04
6. Other: Thanks to Linda Borden/ PVA, Ferries Conf/ Glosten marketing
7. Executive
8. Next scheduled meetings –Monday September 29, 2025, 4:00pm- FICC and Zoom.
9: Adjournment

Public Comment:

Louis Horn requested fare abatement for medical for specific appointments. This was approved.

Gina Scumaci wrote in about the storage unit. This will be discussed in executive.

Jon Doucette came to the meeting in person to appeal for housing for the Fishers Island Fire Department (FIFD) paramedic, Rod Rodriguez. When the fire department spoke to Town of Southold superintendent, they were told to talk to the ferry district first as we manage the town land. FIFD is interested in the possibility of leasing property and putting a house or duplex on it. In addition to the current need for Rod, in the future, they may move to a paid department and would need somewhere to house paid members. There are a couple potential locations where a house could be placed (like the area behind the parade ground apartments), but none of those lots are subdivided, so that would be a process that would take time. 357 Whistler could become available, but the town police are currently

using it. The former barracks could also potentially be an option, but that building needs repairs that are included in the 2026 budget for the town.

The conversation came back to leasing land and building a house. FIFD asked to pace out an area, get it surveyed, and go to the town for approval for a variance. They would pay for this but are asking the Ferry District to approve this work and sign off on it when it goes to the town. One option for this is the parking area behind the parade ground apartments (the multi-unit building on the bend in Whistler Ave). Currently, people use that for parking, but that would be a problem for Walsh Park to deal with.

Commissioner Reid will work with Commissioner Cashel to determine next steps for this.

Marine Update:

There was a meeting last week to discuss the new boat design. This was the 95 percent review.

July and August numbers were good. Passenger counts were up by about 1000 both months. Commercial traffic was up for July. There were more cars in August compared to last year. There has been a sharp drop-off since Labor Day, but Commissioner Burnham pointed out that Labor Day was in later in September last year so the months may not be directly comparable.

Regarding staffing, a lot of the college kids went back to school. They lost some other staff as well, so we're looking to hire 2-3 people part-time. There were no internal referrals, so Jon opened up some positions on Indeed. He will begin interviewing on Wednesday.

There are three conferences coming up that Jon thinks would be beneficial to attend.

Geb added that we're finalizing the construction drawings right now, but certainly not putting it out to bid. Glosten asked if they can share the computer renderings of the new ferry as a marketing piece. The Board of Commissioners approved this.

The Board gave an initial approval for staff to attend the conferences, so there will be a resolution about this at the next meeting.

Warrant

RESOLUTION 2025 –074

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Ferry District hereby approves the Warrant dated September 15, 2025 in the amount of $43,656.04.

Moved by: Commissioner Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner Reid
Ayes: Burnham, Congdon, Shillo, Cashel, and Reid
Nays: None

Executive Session:

At 4:48 pm, the following resolution was proposed:
RESOLVED, that the Commission move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal matters.
Moved by: Commissioner Congdon
Seconded by: Commissioner Reid
Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Shillo, and Reid
Nays: None

At 5:56 pm, the following resolution was proposed:
RESOLVED, that the Commission exit from Executive Session and resume Public Session.
Moved by: Commissioner Burnham
Seconded by: Commissioner Reid
Ayes: Burnham, Cashel, Congdon, Shillo, and Reid
Nays: None

Other:

We appreciate the work of Linda Borden in making the picture boards of ferry staff in the lobbies.

Lighthouse Works (LW) inquired as to if it would be possible to purchase the annex building when their lease is up in 2027. That building also needs some repairs. LW saved us money by taking it over and selling it would help pay down the bond. This will be discussed in the future when it is closer to the end of the lease.

Geb was approached by an architect interested in talking about possibilities for the Coast Guard house.

Commissioner Reid moved to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Burnham seconding. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.