**MINUTES**



**Town of Vinalhaven**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Monday, September 24th, 2018**

**5:00 PM**

**TOWN OFFICE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *Allan Skogsburg* | *Debbie Skogsburg* | *Penelope Lord* |
| *Janann Sherman* | *Marion Grogan* | *Allie Wood* |
| *Bruce Hopkins* | *Betsy Hopkins* | *Pat Lundholm* |
| *Betsy Bates* | *George Kendrick* | *Lindsey Davis* |
| *Murray Thompson* | *Annette Cash* | *Patience Trainor* |
| *Jean Conway* | *Arif Shaikh* | *Dinah Moyer* |
| *Hugh Martin* | *Sue Martin* | *Merry Boone* |
| *Jim Boone* | *Wilson Boone* | *Laura Spinner* |
| *Wanatha Garner* | *Coleen Conlan* | *Terri Peterson-George* |
| *Margaret Qualey* | *Larry Brady* | *Don Burns* |
| *Kris Davidson* | *John Cochran* | *Dan Martin* |
| *Isabelle Gaston* | *John Robey* | *Kathi Young* |
| *Cindy Bolles*  | *Christina Quinlan* | *Sheri Romer-Day* |
| *Ruth Cutler* | *Jeff Benson* | *Anna Poe* |
| *Tanya Robishaw* | *Darlene Candage* |  |

1. **Roll Call**: *Selectmen Eric Gasperini, Pam Alley, Donald Poole, Jake Thompson, and Phil Crossman; Deputy Town Clerk Elizabeth Bunker; and Town Manager Andrew Dorr (via phone).

Also Present were:*
2. **Approve Agenda**: *Motion by Eric Gasperini to approve the agenda. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*
3. **Old Business**:
a. 2019 MSFS Schedule Review

*Phil Crossman started with a brief recap of last week’s MSFS public meeting held at the Union Church Vestry. He stated that about 600 signatures had been collected on a petition. At the meeting it was stated over and over that the reason for an earlier trip was glare from LED lights from other boats. It was later divulged that crew fatigue was also a factor.*

 *Phil read a letter received from Dan Martin.*

 *Jean Conway agreed that there is a safety concern, and agreed with having an earlier boat, but disagreed with the length of time the schedule would be in place.*

*Jake Thompson asked about an earlier boat in the morning (6:30). Dan Martin said it would be the same circumstances - it isn’t light enough that early.*

*Phil Crossman wanted to stress that this isn’t the time to come up with a solution, but to show support as a community and come together with one voice.*

*Mark Higgins had said at the previous meeting that he would come talk with the selectmen before October 1, but no meeting has been scheduled.*

*Jean Conway said she is on the MSFS Safety Committee and they have not met for months despite her request to do so. They might be a resource for input if a meeting could be convened.*

*Wanatha Garner mentioned the crew fatigue and questioned why it wasn’t a year-round issue, not just in the winter. Margaret Qualey stated that it wasn’t so much of an issue when the crews actually have their week on/week off rotation, but if they are called during their week off it becomes tiring (speaking on behalf of her husband Peter Drury).*

*Annette Cash asked about contacting and working with Rockland hotels to offer a discounted rate for passengers on the bus who would get in too late for the last ferry or people having medical appointments in Portland or Bangor (etc.) that wouldn’t return in time for the last ferry.*

*Dinah Moyer explained hardships it puts on the Medical Center - They have a dentist and social worker come from Rockland, and an earlier ferry would allow for less patient visits. She also stressed less time to make specialty appointments and foreseeable issues with patient transportation and emergency runs.*

*It was also stated that the School relies on an OT and ST from the mainland that this would limit their time to work with students - which is a state requirement.*

*Wilson Boone brought up issues that Linda Bean and the Co-Op would face in shipping lobsters and getting bait.*

*Some questioned why the ferry couldn’t follow the North Haven route until cutting through the Red Sea. Dan Martin said the allowable travel ways are posted in the cabin on the ferry.*

*ICMS can provide data on the number of patients that have been sent on the 2:45 or 4:30 ferries. This could give the Board an idea of the number of emergency trips that could occur due to the last ferry running at 3:15.*

*Donald Poole asked for a show of hands of those present who was not in favor of a 3:15 ferry at any time of during the year, or who would be open to a hybrid schedule. The majority was not in favor of a 3:15 at any time.*

*George Kendrick said the ferry could be considered a utility - it is a necessary service to the island - and should be treated as such.*

*Betsy Hopkins asked if the Board had collected input from groups/businesses around town. Phil said he had, in addition to the 600± signatures.*

*It was also questioned that if LED lights and crew fatigue are the main issues, why is only the Vinalhaven schedule being changed and North Haven continues to run their last ferry at 5:15pm.*

*Elizabeth Bunker questioned if making less trips (they are proposing only 4-5 trips during the day in the fall, and only 2 on Sundays in the Winter), along with the increased fares will still meet the required 50% of the revenue from fares. Donald Poole said that they are expecting less expense in payroll and fuel.*

*Motion by Phil Crossman to send the petition to Mark Higgins and invite him to meet with the Selectmen to further discuss the proposed schedule change. Second by Donald Poole. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

*There was a comment from \_\_\_ (new PA) who suggested changing “inconvenience” to another word (possibly “hardship”). The thought was that people can live with an inconvenience but this change puts people in a financial or medical hardship if they are unable to make the return trip to Vinalhaven, or the later return to Rockland.*

1. **Adjourn** *- Motion by Eric Gasperini to adjourn at 5:43pm. Second by Pam Alley. Vote 5/0/0. Motion carried.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Elizabeth Bunker, Deputy Clerk*