

LUMMI ISLAND FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LIFAC) MINUTES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 (via Zoom platform)

Meeting called to order by Chair, Cris Colburn, at 6:18pm

ROLL CALL:

Cris Colburn (Chair), Judy Olsen (Vice-Chair), Reid Johnson (Secretary), Jim Dickinson, Rich Frye. Excused absence: Todd Lagestee and Mike McKenzie

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Skehan encouraged the committee to place strong emphasis on replacement ferry conversion to a carbon-neutral vessel. The study conducted by Whatcom County consulting group kpff is outdated due to pandemic circumstances and a changing island demographic. Increased operating costs and fuel costs will result in higher ferry fares. (Document attached.)

David Parker expressed concern that 2023 Dry Dock would include the Memorial Day weekend, which would be very detrimental to small businesses on the island and the artists' tour.

Bill Sager said he's seen more postings online (NextDoor) and he believes the committee could do more to get news out to the public and share information on replacement ferry and current ferry developments.

April minutes approved (5-0)

INTERNAL BUSINESS

1. Hybrid Meeting Format, Bill Sager and Mary Ross are collaborating on improvements for a hybrid meeting (online for persons who cannot attend) format on Zoom platform.
2. The County Council administration has enhanced support options for LIFAC, led by Jill Nixon. They are open to requests for staff support, such as assisting in management of our email list serve for announcements.
3. Attachment details our presentation to the Lummi Island Community Association public meeting on April 27.
4. Cris and Jim met with Liz Kosa, the assistant executive director of Public Works, and Rich Hudson, ferry master, about concerns that have been raised both on the committee and by non-committee citizens based around the design plans for the replacement ferry.
5. Calendar Items:

- a. June: Bill Sager report on Zoom options & Roland Middleton, a special projects manager at Public Works, report on ferry lease status, flood issues & LIFAC history.
- b. July: Rich Hudson report on annual ferry operations budget & performance review for proposed LIFAC meeting at Civic Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Dickinson presented a review of the meeting with Public Works officials and addressed Mike Skehan's points in Open Session of fuel usage for a larger ferry.

Open discussion about how to proceed with concerns about the replacement ferry design.

Meeting adjourned, 7:38pm