

Chappy Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting
November 16, 2021
5:00 pm

A meeting of the Committee was held on the above date and time via Zoom. Members present were: Rick Biros, Bill Brine, John Dropick, Peter Getsinger, Rick Schifter, Sally Snipes, Dana Strayton, Tom Tilghman, Peter Wells and Town Administrator, James Hagerty.

The minutes of the meeting of November 2 were approved.

Wells advised that the On Time III was placed back in service, but additional work still needed to be performed. That work would likely be done on weekends to minimize disruptions.

Schifter reported that the CIA has agreed to purchase a tide gauge and donate it to the Town. He also reported on discussions with the engineering firm Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., and representatives of the CIA about the possibility of the firm developing applications for grants to fund the work required to address rising sea levels as described in the Woods Hole Group's vulnerability study. The Fuss & O'Neill representative said that no compensation would be required for the application process provided that it was understood that the firm would be engaged as project manager in the event a grant were provided. F&O agreed to prepare a work plan detailing the steps to be taken and to involve Hagerty in the process.

Schifter advised that he had discussed with Wells and Snipes the possibility of re-opening the full-time resident discount program for individuals who qualify under the existing parameters. Given the significant decline in revenues in October relative to a year earlier, they expressed a desire to defer adding any additional participants to the program until after the accounting review previously agreed upon had been conducted. It was moved and seconded that the Committee recommend to the Select Board that it instruct the ferry operator to "unfreeze" the full-time resident discount program and continue to allow people to qualify under the existing rules. After some discussion, the motion was adopted with 5 votes in favor, 3 opposed and Wells and Snipes abstaining.

The Committee discussed the possibility of adding an additional member who is a full-time resident and uses the ferry to commute to work. After some discussion, the matter was deferred until a subsequent meeting.

The Committee briefly discussed some of the issues around the potential purchase of a third ferry and decided it was an issue that the Ready Service Subcommittee should address.

The Committee then entertained comments from non-Committee member attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.