Chappy Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting June 23, 2022 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, Dana Strayton, Peter Wells and Town Administrator, James Hagerty.

The minutes of the meeting of June 2 were approved.

Hagerty advised that the Town was prepared on June 28 to lay 3 inches of asphalt on the area around the ramp on the Edgartown side as the Committee had requested last year. Wells expressed concern regarding the disruption to ferry operations at such a busy time and requested that the work be deferred until the fall. The Committee discussed alternatives and approaches to publicizing the service interruption. Upon a motion and a second, the Committee (with Wells dissenting) voted to recommend to the Select Board that the work proceed on June 28 commencing at noon.

Darci Schofield, Island Director for The Trustees of Reservations, engaged with the Committee in a discussion of the implications of TTOR activities on ferry lines and potential approaches to mitigating the problem. The suggestions discussed included encouraging participants in TTOR tours to walk on the ferry and use TTOR shuttles, usage of the TTOR van to shuttle visitors to Mytoi, encourage the greater use of bicycles and the possibility of creating a bike share program based at Chappy Point. Schofield also advised that the TTOR beach management plan would likely address issues related to OSV permits and potential capacity limitations.

The Committee discussed the proposals by the engineering firms, Race Engineering and Fuss & O'Neill, regarding the next phase of the Chappy Ferry resiliency project. After the discussion, the Committee unanimously approved a motion recommending that the Select Board choose the Fuss & O'Neill proposal.

The Ready Service Subcommittee advised that it had not met since the last Committee meeting, but was focused on identifying means for gathering data regarding wait times at various points in the ferry line.

In response to a question from a non-Committee member attendee, Schifter provided a brief update on the potential transaction pursuant to which a group of Chappy residents might acquire the ferry operation from Wells and Snipes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.