

Greetings,

Fiscal year 2020 started out normally, with the annual meeting in early August and a typical quiet fall season for the island, thankfully with no major weather incidents. By April, however, due to the Coronavirus, it became very clear that summer 2020 would not look normal at all. From mid-April through early July the Board of Overseers met almost weekly to ensure that the island would open up safely for most of the season. Both the Boat Advisory Committee and Public Safety Committee (PSC) provided critical support to the Overseers during this time and we thank them deeply for their help. It's also worth mentioning the extra efforts of our Lilly B boat crew to provide safe transport, and a BIG thank you to Crawford and Matthew for their work this season under challenging circumstances.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of the volunteers that step up each year to help out. Between the committees, boards, activities and yearly cleanup there are so many of you who step forward to do the work that makes Bustins a special place, THANK YOU!

Despite the pandemic, the PSC and Crawford were able to arrange a chipping day with the Maine Forest Service (MFS). While island volunteers were limited due to health concerns, the MFS crew managed to chip over 20 brush piles around the island to reduce our fire danger. Unfortunately, like last season, one of the forest crew was stung by a bee from a nest in one of the piles and had an allergic reaction. The MFS chipping services are at risk if we have a third bee sting incident. The PSC has asked us to remind everyone to check their brush piles for nests and get rid of them before any future chipping days.

This spring, the Overseers partnered with the Bustins Island Historical Society to seek bids to replace the windows and siding of the BIHS building (roadside and gable end). Broad Sound Construction (Ben MacDonald) was hired and work commenced in late August.

Our infrastructure remains in good shape. Crawford has done an excellent job of maintaining the roads, public buildings, vehicles and equipment. The next major projects we are looking at include the drainage and foundation under the library and post office, followed by re-roofing the building once the underpinnings are repaired.

Last year, concerns regarding the RAP material that we utilize to maintain our roadways were brought to our attention. The Overseers have reviewed the available research and discussed the use of RAP with engineering and scientific professionals. Island wells were tested in September 2019 by Carol White Associates and tested negative for PAHs. **“no PAH compounds were detected in any of the 3 well water samples and the chromatograms look “clean”. Based on these results, there is no evidence that the groundwater has been impacted by the recycled asphalt or any other source of PAH compounds.”** The Overseers are continuing to evaluate the use of RAP and conducting additional soil testing to analyze it's safe use. We all believe the health, safety and wellbeing of the island and it's residents are paramount.

In light of the health and safety concerns created by the virus, the Overseers, with guidance from legal counsel and following Maine legislative authority, canceled the annual meeting for FY2021. As a result,

the budget for FY2021 is the same as that for FY2020 and all elected officials (Clerk, Overseers, Treasurer) remain in their positions until the next election.

Trash continues to be a major area of concern, and the Overseers spend an inordinate amount of time on this topic. The Trash Committee is evaluating ways to reduce trash volumes including increased composting and recycling. Please see guidelines below for what you can do to help out.

A group of islanders are gathering support and money to honor the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the retirement of Archie Ross next summer. The public landing will be renamed the Archie Ross Public Landing and a number of events to honor and remember Archie's dedication to Bustins are planned. We would like to thank all those who have donated, as well as Rob Boone for leading this effort.

A few reminders:

- Emergency protocol for fire and medical rescue is as follows... Call 911 and then meet them at the public float to take rescue to where they are needed. This is what Freeport Fire Chief Charlie Jordan is expecting when his team is called in. The public float will be the default dock for emergencies involving fire and rescue.
- Trash guidelines: two bags per household per week, limited to 25 pounds per bag, use heavy duty bags or double bag to prevent leakage, compost vegetable waste and bring recyclable materials off island if possible.
- Please trim the roadside plants by your cottages to keep our roads from migrating. The island has invested a lot of time and money in getting our maps in line and this will help to maintain its accuracy. It is also a safety concern to keep the roadways clear.

It's been a challenging second half of FY2020 and FY2021 is likely to have its share of challenges as well. Thankfully, due to a lot of hard work, we managed to have as good a summer season on Bustins as possible. Thanks again to everyone who pitched in to make summer 2020 happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Rauch  
Chair, Board of Overseers  
Bustins Island Village Corporation