

Board of Overseers Report  
Annual Meeting  
August 7, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the 2021 BIVC annual meeting. Things are a little different this year, but unlike last year we get to have a meeting and the Overseers are thankful to be here with all of you today to engage in the democratic process and take care of the business of Bustins Island.

It's been a long two years to get back here. The Overseers and other island officials have put in a lot of overtime due to the pandemic. At one point last spring we were having weekly meetings just to be able to open up and have a season at all. It was an odd summer for sure, but we figured it out, many islanders were able to get here for at least some time and nobody got sick. The Boat Advisory Committee, led by Bob Canu, Public Safety Committee, led by Ken Barrows & Jim Boyko, and John Abramson, our First Aid Coordinator, provided critical support to the Overseers during this time and we thank them deeply for their help. Crawford Taisey, our Island Superintendent, and Mathew Rowe, our island truck driver and trash collector, managed through challenging circumstances, and deserve our thanks for their extra efforts.

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!

Key things we are monitoring and working on:

- Airboat Noise
- Bailey Coffin Aquaculture

- Planning a large trash pickup for July 2022
- Repairing the library/post office building
  - awaiting coastal grant report on water management
  - BIHS building rehab (windows/siding) was finished last year in coordination with BIHS.

Key items for annual meeting:

- Vote on remote meeting participation
  - This is an important change and has historically not been allowed in Maine. I'll let Sue Spalding provide the details, but she was instrumental in moving this forward on our behalf working in coordination with Freeport's state house Representative, Melanie Sachs and other legislative folks. We're excited about how this will open up participation in island government.
- Vote on use of reclaimed asphalt on island roads
  - Thank David McCoy & others for bringing their concerns forward. There is a process to bring concerns forward and the Overseers will take them seriously.
  - I can tell you we've spent many hours during the past two years researching this topic. Tanya Sweatt will present the Overseers work and view on why we believe that using RAP to help maintain island roads should not be prohibited.
  - We're concerned about safety just like everyone else; safety includes maintaining our roadways for public safety vehicles, pedestrians, kids on bikes, etc. The science does not support the claim that RAP isn't safe to use and I would argue that the opposite is true; RAP is especially effective in key risk areas to prevent accidents/injuries.
  - Regardless of the outcome, we're all neighbors. The question here is not "who is right" but "what is best" for our shared intention to maintain our public roads in the greatest interest of public safety.

Before we get to the articles, I have a few reminders to help keep our island safe and beautiful.

- Some of you heard this last weekend, but it's worth repeating; 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.
- We've had a number of requests re clambake events. Open fires are not permitted on Bustins; however, these events may be permitted on the shore with approval from the Island Superintendent who will help coordinate proper fire safety equipment and procedures. We also ask that you hire an experienced clambake provider since they will help to keep things safe.
- 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.
- Speaking of trash, pet waste is becoming a problem in a particular way. We've learned that poop bags have been thrown away at multiple public outhouses, this has to stop. All of the waste in those outhouses is transported off-island at the end of each season in the honey wagon and the waste processor will reject our waste if the pet waste bags are there. Ideally pet owners would compost pet waste on their property or if necessary, put the pet waste bag in their trash. Do not put the poop bags in your own or your neighbor's outhouse either, that waste is also likely to end up in the honey wagon and create the same problem.
- 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.

And finally, I just want to mention something that I think is important to Casco Bay. Maine Coast Heritage Trust is working to protect Little Whaleboat Island. The family that owns the island has given MCHT until the end of 2021 to raise the almost \$1.4 million needed to purchase and maintain Little Whaleboat in perpetuity. I've been working with MCHT to help raise these funds and I hope you will all consider making a donation to protect this beautiful, undeveloped island so that it can continue to be enjoyed forever. MCHT still needs to raise over \$300,000 by the end of the year. Thanks to a generous donor all donations being made now will be matched dollar-for-dollar, so your donation will go twice as far. I know some of you may have already given, thank you. If you need additional information, please see me after the meeting.