

Maine Island Coalition  
Friday, September 22, 2023  
Topic: Island Transportation  
Zoom

**MIC Members**

Bob Earnest, Chebeague  
Carley Feibusch, Monhegan  
Catherine Haley, Vinalhaven  
Donna Wiegler, Swan's Island  
Fred Somers, Peaks Island  
Jim Fortune, Cranberry Isles  
John King- Islesboro  
Kat Alexander, North Haven  
Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut  
Mark Green, Long Island  
Peggi Stevens, Isle au Haut  
Sarah/Kate Scott (?)

**Government Representatives**

Lynne Williams- State Representative: Bar Harbor, Cranberries, Lamoine, Mount Desert  
Christina Breen- Staff Representative: Senator Angus King  
Kelly Cotiaux- Staff Representative: Senator Susan Collins  
Lydia Crafts- State Representative: Bristol, Damariscotta, Monhegan, Newcastle, Nobleboro  
Nicole Grohoski- Senator: District 7,  
Sarah Lawrence- Staff Representative, Rep Chellie Pingree  
Zach Schmesser- Staff Representative, Rep Jared Golden

**Partner Organizations**

Margaret Snell, Maine Seacoast Mission  
Peter Huston, South Bass Island, Great Lakes Islands Alliance  
Alex Zipparo, Island Institute  
Kate Tagai, Island Institute

**Matinicus**

1. "What kind of passenger transportation serves your island?"

Many Matinicus Island residents are commercial fishermen and have **their own boats** or have family members or employers with a boat. Some year-round working residents do not, and of course most part-timers, retirees, tourists, and guests do not. We rely largely on Penobscot Island Air, an unsubsidized "Part 135" (Code of Federal Regulations) **air taxi** service based at the Knox County airport in Owls Head. They also have the contract to carry the mail and UPS and FedEx. Flights are only possible when weather is "Visual Flight Rules" (meaning not foggy, etc.) and winds are safe. Extended periods of no-fly weather are not uncommon

The costs of operating a small flying service are enormous. As of now, the rates are \$125.00 per person each way if the flight is shared with another person or the mail, \$250.00 per person each way if flying alone, and potentially more with a lot of freight.

The airstrip on Matinicus Island is on private property, and other private pilots and aviation businesses are not welcomed due to safety and insurance issues. The 1600' gravel airstrip is not operated by the municipality. LifeFlight of Maine is of course welcome, and they own and maintain the Matinicus airport weather station.

Captain George Tarkleson operates the unsubsidized **seasonal water taxi** *Robin R.* based at Matinicus Island, from April or May into late October. His rates range from \$100.00 per person round-trip (from Matinicus) on the same day for a planned shopping trip, or \$80.00 one-way if joining an existing scheduled or chartered trip, up to \$800.00 for a last-minute, same-day-notice charter. Only summer weekends have trips scheduled in advance; most trips are chartered and then shared. Captain Tarkleson works hard to get information and updates around about trips added to his schedule, so that others have the opportunity to join a trip at a good rate, but he can only take 16 passengers. Captain Tarkleson has other jobs, and the tides limit access to the Matinicus wharf, so it is rare that the *Robin R.* would ever make more than one round trip in a day.

The **Maine State Ferry Service** vessel *Everett Libby* makes trips to Matinicus from Rockland 36 times a year. The rate at present is \$25.00 round-trip per person for walk-aboard passengers, \$90.00 for a passenger vehicle, and \$7.00 per foot for trucks.

2. "What is the regular transportation schedule for your island?"

Even scheduled transportation will look erratic to anyone not used to our weather-and-tide-dependent lifestyle. The Maine State Ferry Schedule is available on the MaineDOT website:

<https://www.maine.gov/mdot/ferry/matinicus/#rtabs1>

The *Robin R.*'s schedule changes constantly based on sharable charters and changes in weather; check the Matinicus Excursions website:

<https://www.matinicusexcursions.com/schedule>

Air taxi service is on a charter basis, weather permitting. Call Penobscot Island Air at (207) 596-7500 to arrange a flight. They are not legally a scheduled carrier; even the Monday-Friday "mail flight" time is subject to change.

3. "How much does a boat/plane ticket cost?"

Costs vary widely but there is no inexpensive way to get to and from Matinicus unless you can "catch a ride" on a friend's lobster boat. It is very difficult to put together a round-trip on the same day without spending significant money. Visitors should remember that fishermen are not in the passenger business, and although most will gladly carry a friend or neighbor especially if someone is in need, they do not make their plans known to the public in advance.

Descriptions of commercial transport pricing was included in the response to item #1.

4. "Mainland parking?"

Parking at the ferry terminal is (I think) \$12.00 a day right now; others can comment on the year-round parking card. A discounted parking card does NOT assure anyone of a parking space! Parking at the Knox County airport is \$200.00 per year (I pay this) and there is a day rate. Parking at Journey's End Marina (convenient to the *Robin R.*) is over \$300.00 per year (I pay annually) and this year they have been charging for daily parking as well, due to Rockland's serious public parking shortage during heavy-tourism events.

Matinicus people often must travel by different means for each leg of their round trip, making the availability of a taxi in the Rockland area important (to get back to one's mainland vehicle). Since Covid, area taxi services have been decreased and waits are often very long. We used to be able to count on a taxi ride between Rockland and Owls Head being easy, but now getting one is sometimes a problem.

5. "Freight?"

All of life on Matinicus island is about freight handling.

Joking aside, USPS, UPS and FedEx freight--and local deliveries hand-carried to the flying service office (groceries, prescriptions, pizza, repair parts, etc.) --usually come on the airplane. This means delivery may be delayed for many days if weather is not "flyable." Large freight that will not fit in a small airplane such as appliances, lumber, palletized material such as wood pellets, etc. often gets to the island on the same U-Haul that carries the island's recycling and junk off. Eva Murray does this, and "recycling trucks" make a round-trip on roughly every other ferry (twice a month in summer, less frequently in winter). People with their own boats also carry their own lumber, etc. There is a public mast and boom on the wharf for unloading.

There is no way to get any deliveries to Matinicus "immediately" unless weather and transportation happen to cooperate.

6. "Barge?"

No actual barge serves Matinicus. The vessel *Island Transporter* can be hired to bring heavy equipment, dump trucks, etc. This vessel, based in Rockland, was (last I knew) \$450.00 per hour, meaning a trip to Matinicus might cost roughly \$3000.00.

Diesel fuel for Matinicus Plantation Electric Company is delivered by the small tanker *Ray O'Neal*, owned by Maine Coast Petroleum, every few months. MCP will also sell kerosene and #2 heating oil to individuals on the wharf by advance order (you have to have your own barrels and get the fuel to your home yourself).

7. "How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation? Water taxi/Chartering the regular service?"

Occasionally Captain Tarkleson can make a trip with the *Robin R.* for a special purpose. For example, earlier this month a scheduled veterinary clinic on the island was complicated by weather (meaning the visiting vet couldn't fly to the island) and the *Robin R.* made it possible. The State Ferry can also be engaged at private or municipal expense (somewhere between \$1300.00-\$1800.00,) subject to crew availability, for trips beyond our 36-per-year limit. In 2022, the island propane dealer "hired" the ferry when there was no room for a propane truck on any regular ferry trip, even with attempts to make reservations months ahead.

“...Supplemental Transportation companies?”

The passenger vessel *Jackie Renee*, with Captain Jim Kalloch, can be hired to bring people to Matinicus, although he is not based here. He often serves Criehaven Island. Other passenger vessels in Penobscot Bay have occasionally been to Matinicus as well.

### **Frenchboro**

- What kind of passenger transportation serves your island? We use the Maine State Ferry Service. This is a car ferry. We have a passenger boat only Fridays from April to November.
- Schedule: Wednesday leaves Bass Harbor 9:00am. Leaves Frenchboro 10am Thursday leaves Bass Harbor 9:00 am Leaves Frenchboro 10:00 am Sunday leaves Bass Harbor 9:45 am Leaves Frenchboro 10:30 am. We have a round trip the first and Third Wednesday of the month there is a return boat at 2:00 from Bass Harbor and that leaves Frenchboro 3:00.
  - How long is the trip/trips? 45 mins each way
  - How does the schedule change with the seasons? No passenger boat on Fridays from December through March.

- How much does a boat ticket cost? There are PEAK tickets (June 1- September 30) Adult \$17.50 Minor \$12.50 0-5 Free. Vehicle: \$31 Motorcycle: \$24.25 Truck/foot: \$4.25 Reservation: \$12

OFF PEAK tickets Adult: \$17.50 Minor: \$11.25 Child 0-5: Free. Vehicle: \$38.50 Motorcycle: \$30.50 Truck per foot: \$4.75 Reservation: \$12

- Tell us about mainland parking:
  - How much does parking cost? \$300 for the summer through September but one is not guaranteed a spot. Off season parking is free.
- How does your island get freight (including USPS and FedEx, etc.)? We have a mailboat based on Swans Island and he comes Monday through Saturday year round. He brings UPS and FEDEX as well. Also owns an Island Market that we can order groceries from and he will bring that as well. Life would be bleak without his services!!
- What barge serves your island? I don't know the answer to this question, because rarely does a barge come out here.
- How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation? Chartering the RL Gott passenger boat, sometimes one of the lobster boats.

### **Isle au Haut**

- What kind of passenger transportation serves your island?

[Isle au Haut Boat Services \(isleauhautferryservice.com\)](http://isleauhautferryservice.com)

Nonprofit – two mailboats. Names: Otter and Mink

Barge will transport vehicles during the spring/summer/fall. Costs: \$450.00 +/-

Sometimes you can get a lobsterboat to bring you to the Island for a price.

- What is the regular transportation schedule for your island?

[Isle au Haut Boat Services \(isleauhautferryservice.com\)](http://isleauhautferryservice.com)

Keeping track of the boat schedule crazy during the summer!

- How many trips per day/days per week (or per month)?

4 trips June through Labor Day (Monday-Saturday)

2 trips June through Oct (first week) Sundays Only

3 trips Sept through Oct (first week)

No Duck Harbor Service (Acadia National Park after first week Oct)

No Sunday Service after first week of Oct

Oct-June we have 2 trips Mon/Fri/Sat

Oct-June we have 3 trips Tue/Wed/Thu (there is a noon boat to Island)

- How long is the trip/trips?

About 35 to 40 minute boat ride from Stonington. Six miles

- How does the schedule change with the seasons?

Because of Acadia National Park the boat schedule changes in June – through October.

- How much does a boat/plane ticket cost?

- Are there senior, resident, student, child, or other discounts?

Non-residents: \$22.00 per person one way

Residents: (12 months – full-time) \$10.00 per person one way

Children under 11: ½ price for Resident and Non-resident

No senior discounts. No summer resident discounts

- Are there any major concerns about the overall affordability of island life related to transportation?

Yes. It's expensive. At the town meetings we give the boat company an additional \$50,000 every year.

The Island also owns/vested interest in the boat company building and dock in Stonington.

Islanders also pay for freight coming to the Island to the boat company. When the boat company uses their winch, it costs \$30.00. The boat company brings over building supplies, appliances, groceries, mail, packages, etc. We are charged individually for all our freight. We can also rent a large white container box for \$30.00 to put our supplies, gas, groceries in when we go off Island shopping for a day or two and don't want to carry everything off because of the tides or we just have too much.

- Tell us about mainland parking: How much does parking cost?

It depends on where you park. If you park at Greenlaw's up the huge hill – a bit of a walk from where the boat company is: \$400 a year.

If you park at the boat company for Non-Resident it is \$11.00 a day.

For Residents: Parking in the garage in the Winter \$15.00 a month.

For Residents: Parking outside Winter (Oct-Nov & May) \$1.00 a day.

For Residents: Parking outside Summer (Jun-Sep) \$15.00 a month.

If you are staying for only a few days, there is free parking around town, but you must look for it or find out where it is. There is public parking available on Pink Street or up by the ball field and community center.

- Parking is usually challenging on the mainland- briefly describe those challenges your island experiences.

We have parking issues on the Island. At the town landing and along the road. People tend to leave their vehicles there for weeks at a time thinking they will be returning and don't return. They take up all the parking places and there is no place for the fishermen to park! Or, the town ends up having to remove their vehicles so they can snowplow or sand.

- How does your island get freight (including USPS and FedEx, etc.)?

All our USPS and UPS and FedEx comes on the Isle au Haut Boat Services or the mailboat as the Islanders call it. The mailboat has contracts with all the carriers (USPS, UPS, and FedEx)

- Please describe any challenges your island experiences around freight.

We have no issues regarding freight except we have way too much of it. We have a freight boat every day. It's the 2:30 or the 3:30 pm mail boat. All the individuals receiving freight, packages, groceries meet that boat and pick up their items. In the summer many full-time Islanders purposely arrive late to pick up freight to avoid all the confusion and chaos!

- What barge serves your island?

Island Transporter

Two small barges from Rockland (Abigail gave Alex the names)

Peggi Stevens is working with Sharyn Pohlman (County Commissioner for Knox County) to combine barge trips to different Islands (propane,

- Please, share any quick details about rates that you would like.
- How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation?
  - Lobsterboats
  - Water taxis from Stonington
  - Special Boat Trips from the Boat Company (\$250 for a special trip)
- What are options for on-island parking and on-island transportation?

Isle au Haut has free parking now. First come, first serve. We have no Island transportation or rental service currently. Vacation rentals due rent vehicles with their homes. There are two cars that can be rented on the Island. The cost is \$250.00 a week and the gas tank must be filled when you return the vehicle.

## **Monhegan**

- What kind of passenger transportation serves your island?
  - for-profit ferry (not a car ferry)
- What is the regular transportation schedule for your island?

May (Before Memorial Day): 1 boat a day (1 hour layover on the island, no Sunday trip)

Memorial Day- Indigenous People's Day: 2-3 boats a day. Possible to do a day trip when there are 3 boats.

October (after Indigenous People's Day): 1 Boat a day (1 hour layover on the island, no Sunday trip, no day trips possible)

November- December and April: 3 boats a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) No day trips possible, minimum 2 nights inshore

January-March: 2 boats a week (Monday and Thursday) No day trips possible, minimum 3 nights inshore

- How much does a boat/plane ticket cost?
  - Normal ticket is \$48 round trip (includes 2 pieces of luggage, extra charges for freight (coolers, totes, etc.) Resident discount is \$24 round trip. Have to prove year-round residency after 1-year
  - We've noticed a big increase in freight prices over the past few years.
- Tell us about mainland parking:
  - \$640 a year if paid in advance.
  - Parking is in a large dirt lot a short walk from the wharf. Can park closer in the winter months.
- How does your island get freight (including USPS and FedEx, etc.)?
  - All freight comes over on the Monhegan Boat Line (for-profit ferry)
- What barge serves your island?
  - Island Transporter (can run 2-3k per trip depending on loading/ unloading time)
- How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation? Special trips with MBL are difficult to arrange. Most people work with lobsterman to catch a ride back and forth or schedule a charter.

### **Chebeague**

- What kind of passenger transportation serves your island?
  - Nonprofit, for-profit, or Maine State Ferry Service
  - Air/boat options
  - Can vehicles travel on the regular passenger boat that serves your island?
- Two ferries (CTC and CBL) and 2 barges (Plante and CTC). No air. Minor vehicle transport on occasion on CBL.
- What is the regular transportation schedule for your island?
  - How many trips per day/days per week (or per month)?
  - How long is the trip/trips?
  - How does the schedule change with the seasons?
- 10/day weekday, a few less on Sunday, on CTC; 5-6/day CBL, varies seasonally.
- How much does a boat/plane ticket cost?
  - Are there senior, resident, student, child, or other discounts?
  - Are there any major concerns about the overall affordability of island life related to transportation?
- CBL \$11.05 r/t; CTC r/t \$20. CTC r/t for annual park permit holders = \$9.40. Many residents report difficulties affording transport, including too costly for kids to visit.
- Tell us about mainland parking:
  - How much does parking cost?
  - Parking is usually challenging on the mainland- briefly describe those challenges your island experiences.
- \$850 annual fee; \$1,025 annual workday reverse commuter. Cousins lot is routinely overcrowded, sometimes even in winter. Alternate lot Rt 1 is only available by bus, and not all boats.

- How does your island get freight (including USPS and FedEx, etc.)?
  - Please describe any challenges your island experiences around freight.
- Casco Bay Lines delivers a range of freight: UPS, FedEx, and common carrier, as well as groceries, lumber, etc. In summer it can be a hot mess at the pier at freight time.
- What barge serves your island?
  - Please, share any quick details about rates that you would like.
- CTC and Lionel Plante. R/T lumber truck Plante ~\$450 – 650; r/t pickup CTC ~\$350
- How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation?
  - Water taxi? \$90
  - Supplemental transportation companies?
  - Chartering the regular transportation service provider? yes

### **Swan's Island**

Swan's Island is served by the Maine State Ferry Service. We have no other ferry transportation to and from the island.

The ferry holds between 13-17 vehicles depending on trucks, etc.,

We have between four to six round trips per day to and the mainland, more trips in the summer and still vehicles are left behind on the mainland at the end of the day. We land in Bass Harbor. Our crossing is 6 miles and takes about 30 minutes, actual sailing time. The closest shopping is 25 miles away in Ellsworth or Bar Harbor. Tickets are \$38 for a standard size vehicle and a driver. Passengers are \$17.50. Those rates go down in the winter to \$31 and \$12.50 during the off-peak season. There is no islander discount. A motorcycle is \$30.50 during the summer, so when my husband and I go riding together we pay \$61 for a space smaller than a mini cooper! An extended cab pickup pays \$38! Just my personal gripe! Reservations are \$12 each way all year long. So, a regular size vehicle with a driver and a passenger and a two-way reservation in the summer costs: \$80! I have reservations for my husband's work truck tomorrow, an F350 diesel with an 11-foot bed. It is considered a commercial truck and the ticket does not include the driver. I am going with him and the total cost is \$163 round trip!

No discounts for seniors. Tickets for children 5-17 are discounted. No charge for children 0-5 or for dogs!

I spend about \$2,000 a year for ferry tickets, almost \$200 a month. Unlike Islesboro, North Haven and Vinalhaven, we do not have a full-time health center on the island, or a regular size store. You must travel to the mainland for shopping and health care. We do not have a high school, so parents must travel to the mainland and get a hotel for the night to watch their kids play sports and other activities. Continuing to raise ferry fares only leads to lower ridership among year-round residents. I've been on the ferry in the winter when I am the only vehicle on the boat.

Our ferry schedule is challenging, we have seven different schedules within a week's time. It is hard to know when the ferry is coming and going. We have regular Wednesday, wacky Wednesday, a Sunday schedule, Thursdays are different from Mon, Tues, Friday and Saturday. It's a pain. Then there's the third Thursday when gas comes out, no vehicles and no passengers on those runs. Then there's propane trips, only 7 vehicles and 42 passengers allowed. It is very confusing. Add that to the peak and off-peak schedules and you cannot keep it all straight without having a printed schedule in hand of checking on line. Customer service is not a priority for the ferry service.



Each island has a different system. NH and VH have line numbers. We do not. There is so much traffic at our ferry terminal on the Swan's Island side, people jockeying cars around. I have put a car in line 3 days ahead of when I want to go to the mainland in the summer. I have to drive across the island to move the car up to gain a couple spots at the end of each day. It's ridiculous! A complete waste of time and gas!

I think a summer parking pass is \$275, but you are not guaranteed a spot. It is first come, first serve at the end of the day. They sell more passes than they have spots. There are no other locations for parking other than the ferry terminal lot.

All freight, UPS, FedEx, groceries, prescriptions, NAPA, Hamilton Marine, etc., come out on the ferry in a van or truck run by Hopkins Freight, owned by Brian and Kathy Krafjack who own our tiny island store.

We have challenges around getting concrete on the island. Ferry Service and Coast Guard have put up restrictions that the barrel of the concrete truck cannot spin on the ferry. This does not work as the concrete will set up on the ferry ride. Concrete is now being mixed on the job and is not as good in quality. We do not have regular barge service, but I imagine the Island Transporter would serve us. I've seen them bring modular home sections to the island.

Currently, or for the last year, we had a ferry captain who would not make after hours emergency runs. This resulted in increased use of LifeFlight. An after hours emergency run costs \$1,000 billed by the ferry service. LifeFlight can cost up to \$15,000 to \$20,000! We should not be utilizing the limited resources of LifeFlight when we have a perfectly good ferry boat here on the island at night. This captain has resigned from the Swan's Island run recently.

Special requests have been made of the ferry service, for example, high school graduation. That Sunday, the ferry does a later run to bring families back to the island.

Needless to say, the Maine State Ferry Service needs to improve and start serving their customers. Rates cannot continue to increase. Higher rates = lower ridership. Make serving the community a priority and make sure all employees recognize that.

### **Islesboro**

14 miles long and mostly narrow (68.88 sq. miles) in Penobscot Bay

Approx. 600 year round residents with population that swells in summer (2K?)

3 miles offshore with ferry service via MSFS from Lincolnville Beach (approx..15 minutes each way)

F/V Margaret Chase Smith, approx.. 32 vehicles (largest in MSFS fleet) 9 round trips/day in summer (7:30 – 5pm) and 7 round trips/day winter (reduced Sunday service)

Passengers \$8 off season (Oct.-May) \$13 Peak (June-Sept.)

Vehicles \$22 off season \$29.50 Peak Season

Reservations \$20

NB, Above are Tariff 9 rates which will increase with Tariff 10 about to be proposed

Islesboro Central School K-12 Currently 94 students. A magnet school with students from the mainland who travel (no cost) to the island daily via ferry.

Two Grocery Stores, one café at Islesboro Community Center

Local Health Center & Boardman Cottage, assisted living facility

EMS Service with medical transport by MSFS when necessary, Life Flight or Quicksilver Water Taxi  
Parking at Lincolnville- 130 spaces - free Off Season \$300 (June-Sept.) season, \$12/day Peak  
Freight via truck by ferry. Deliveries by Viking/Hancock Lumber trucks (via ferry). Fed Ex and UPS via ferry.

Air strip with service via Penobscot Island Air or private

Barge – Generally Island Transporter or Sunset Destroyer (Pendleton Yacht Yard)

Special trips by water taxi (Quicksilver) private charter and occasional ferry

### **Cranberries**

- What kind of passenger transportation serves your island?
  - Nonprofit, for-profit, or Maine State Ferry Service: Both primary ferry operators (Beal & Bunker and Cranberry Cove) are for-profit commercial ferry services; the TCI Commuter Boat is a separate limited ferry operated by Downeast Windjammers and Beal & Bunker and subsidized by the Town & State of Maine with a 3-year contract.
  - Air/boat options No flight options available; there is year-round water taxi available, and 3 or 4 available during the summer. One-way fare is typically \$85 for up to 6 people.
  - Can vehicles travel on the regular passenger boat that serves your island? All ferries are walk-on passenger service only; all vehicles/trucks and large equipment are barged
- What is the regular transportation schedule for your island?
  - How many trips per day/days per week (or per month)? All ferry trips are 7 days per week, year-round for Beal & Bunker, Memorial Day weekend to October 1<sup>st</sup> for Cranberry Cove; summer schedules are 6 trips per day each to Manset and NEH. Beal & Bunker goes to 4 trips in the spring/fall schedule and 3 per day during the winter months (mid-October to May 1<sup>st</sup>,
  - How long is the trip/trips? Both Manset & NEH take about 35 to 40 minutes, with stops at GCI & LCI, and Sutton on request
  - How does the schedule change with the seasons? Ferry Schedules change seasonally: Summer schedules generally run end of June to Labor Day, Spring & Fall schedules are May/June, and September/October, winter is mid-October to May 1<sup>st</sup>. Cranberry Cove ferry to Manset does not run in the winter. The Town does not control any of the ferry schedules except for the TCI commuter ferry and is therefore subject to the business operations of the 2 primary ferry service. Both cooperate with the Town to ensure service needs are met. The ferry services, and therefore TCI are also subject to the rules and (political) whims of Mount Desert and Southwest Harbor with respect to ferry access. The situation has mostly worked for both parties, but there has been some friction that crops up at times. This is probably a separate but related issue that all unbridged island towns face. With respect to access for ferries It's vital that open communication happens between Cranberry Isles Town Office, TCI Selectmen, ferry operators, and local officials in Mount Desert & Southwest Harbor.
- How much does a boat/plane ticket cost? In 2023, Multi-trip tickets on Beal & Bunker are \$13.00 each way for residents (\$9.00 during the winter schedule); Cranberry Cove multi-trip ticket is \$9.00 each way for residents. TCI Commuter ferry is \$13.00 each way during the summer with Beal & Bunker, and \$9.00 in the winter with Downeast Windjammers; the Commuter Ferry fares are set by the contract they have with the Town.
  - Are there senior, resident, student, child, or other discounts? Price is the same for all summer & year-round residents; I believe children 3-11 are half price and under 3 is free. Both ferries have similar fare structures.

- Are there any major concerns about the overall affordability of island life related to transportation? Yes, it is getting a lot more expensive!
- Tell us about mainland parking: TCI leases a parking lot for year-round use with 123 spaces in NEH for Cranberry Isles residents (lease is about \$50,000 per year); the parking lot is leased from the Town of Mount Desert and is located in proximity (i.e., walking distance) to the NEH municipal pier and the ferry. Cranberry Isles owns an integrated 128-space parking lot facility and dock in Manset for seasonal use (May through October) where Cranberry Cove ferry picks up passengers; the dock/pier & floats are currently not suitable for year-round use. We hope to make Manset a year-round facility in the future, including expansion of parking facilities on the existing property. Municipal bonds for the purchase and earlier development of the Manset property will be paid off after this year. Although crucial to the Town's transportation needs, the Manset property, in my estimation, is a very large property and has proven difficult for a Town this size to manage & maintain. In addition to these 2 main parking lots containing a little over 250 spaces, the Town also leases a gravel lot with room for about 50 to 55 cars in NEH that is about a 10-15 min walk to the ferry.

The roughly 300 parking spaces in 2 mainland MDI communities available during the summer currently meets the needs of the Town. However, we are approaching a point where additional parking will be needed and we anticipate expanding parking in Manset in the near future. We do not believe that any additional parking in NEH will ever become available, and if it did, TCI would have to participate in its development or negotiate access to it. We pretty much have what we have in NEH. Any new development on the mainland will almost certainly occur at the Town's Manset facility.

- How much does parking cost? NEH \$385 for permit/Manset \$300 for permit/Joy Street \$45 for permit/We do reserve short-term spots in Manset for \$10 per day. Mid-May to Mid-October the parking lots are restricted to permit holders for that specific lot for the season. After October 14<sup>th</sup> The main NEH parking lot is unrestricted and is open to all residents and visitors to Cranberry Isles from Mid-October to Mid-May; Manset is used for some minimal boat and car storage for residents on request during the winter months, floats are removed and the dock is not accessible again until early May. Parking is usually challenging on the mainland- briefly describe those challenges your island experiences. See note above under "mainland parking." Let me know if this does not adequately answer the question.
- How does your island get freight (including USPS and FedEx, etc.)? All U.S. Mail, UPS, and FedEx are delivered via Beal & Bunker ferry out of NEH. If it doesn't fit on the Mailboat it will need to be barged out.
- Please describe any challenges your island experiences around freight. U.S. Mail is delivered to the Post Office boxes of residents (there is no home delivery). Mail delivery can be delayed, but rarely is, for storm or other boat cancelations. FedEx & UPS, or other non-U.S. mail is brought by Beal & Bunker from NEH and placed in package sheds located on the Town docks on GCI & LCI. Beal & Bunker has a contract with all 3 major carriers and has a system for accepting mail & packages in NEH and delivering them to the islands. There can sometimes be confusion by boat crew who may mix up packages and get them in the wrong shed especially during the summer months and shoulder seasons; this is probably mostly due to new seasonal crew and unfamiliarity with seasonal residents and visitors who order things. It's an on-going problem, but there is a system to deal with

it. A lot of this stems from the fact that there is no home delivery of mail or packages in the community. Sutton Island residents use the NEH Post Office Directly and have mailboxes there.

- What barge serves your island? Mostly John Goodwin, Jr. Company (probably 95% of barge shipments), but also Acadia Fuel; all fuel deliveries are from the mainland via barge. This can become a significant problem if fuel deliveries, which depend on barging, don't get made on a regular basis. It has improved significantly, but in past years there have been "crisis" situations that have arisen due to too long a period between deliveries, sometimes several weeks or months. There has been an issue getting fuel companies to delivery, even to existing accounts, but this has improved markedly over the past several years. RH Foster, Acadia Fuel, and Dead River all make fairly consistent deliveries now. Installation of heat pumps has also alleviated fuel shortage problems.
- Please, share any quick details about rates that you would like. I believe the one-way barge trip is now \$375; it was \$250.00 not too long-ago.
- How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation?
  - Water taxi?
  - Supplemental transportation companies?
  - Chartering the regular transportation service provider?

Many residents, groups, Town employees and committees, and the schools will utilize water taxis for trips, as well as utilize the commuter ferry and regular ferries for "special boat trips" as needed when their travel falls outside the regular ferry schedules. This is more common during the winter months when there are just 3 trips a day with Beal & Bunker and 2 with the TCI commuter ferry. This can be a considerable expense for the Town, particularly for the school. The school negotiates a price they pay Beal & Bunker for transportation of school kids for the school year, which is the bulk of school's ferry transportation budget; The going rate prevails when water taxis and the commuter ferry are used, although the commuter ferry charges ½ price for the school kids.

### **Long Island**

- What kind of passenger transportation serves your island?
  - Nonprofit, for-profit, or Maine State Ferry Service- Nonprofit quasi- municipal transit district. Voters from 6 islands elect Board Members who hire management and direct policies and issues.
  - Air/boat options- no air (except medical helicopter)
  - Can vehicles travel on the regular passenger boat that serves your island? No but unscheduled barge access often available
- What is the regular transportation schedule for your island?
  - How many trips per day/days per week (or per month)? about 10/day; several more in summer
  - How long is the trip/trips? 35 to 60 minutes depending on how many stops; freight etc.
  - How does the schedule change with the seasons? very little except summer- same schedule 7 days a week
- How much does a boat/plane ticket cost? \$10.70 full fare adult round trip
  - Are there senior, resident, student, child, or other discounts? extensive discounts for seniors, child, commuters. All fares discounted nearly 50% Oct-April

- Are there any major concerns about the overall affordability of island life related to transportation? most of concern is over mainland parking costs.
- Tell us about mainland parking:
  - How much does parking cost? IF you can get a spot in CBL garage - \$190/month. Other garages more distant- similar.
  - Parking is usually challenging on the mainland- briefly describe those challenges your island experiences. Long wait lists for spots.
- How does your island get freight (including USPS and FedEx, etc.)? All come on regular ferry on carts and cages. Dump trucks and large lumber on separate private barge. UPS and Fedex delivered to homes by local contractors. Mail at post officer or rural delivery
  - Please describe any challenges your island experiences around freight. Seems to work fairly well. Several boats/day are for heavy freight. All others carry personal freight.
- What barge serves your island? Plant Barge out of Peaks Island
  - Please, share any quick details about rates that you would like. Expensive - car \$120 one way. Trucks - \$300-500?
- How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation?
  - Water taxi? Plentiful during day - about \$70 one way up to 6 people. Can share cost
  - Supplemental transportation companies? no
  - Chartering the regular transportation service provider? Possible and done for big events. About \$2000-3000.
  - Town Fire and Rescue owns and volunteer staffs its own rescue boat for transport of medical emergency patients to mainland ambulances. 24/7 except extreme weather.

## **Vinalhaven**

Vinalhaven Island is provided transportation by the Maine State Ferry Service. Up to 22 vehicles can fit on the ferry depending on the ferry itself and the size of the vehicles going. The trips run seven days a week with the exception for Christmas. We have two ferries that serve the island with 6 trips from each side that are each 1 hour 15 min. The trips begin at 7am and the last one is 4:30pm. There is a seasonal schedule where the times of the last trip changes to 3:15pm, making it harder to get things done on the mainland without making it an overnight trip. The ticket costs depend on age of traveler and time of year. We have peak season rates and off-peak season rates. There are no discounts to a ferry ticket for seniors or residents. A major concern for locals, especially families with multiple children. It's 70\$ for a family of three to travel off the island in the peak season rates, making travel hard not only because of getting on and off the island, but the costs too. Parking is an absolute disaster at the terminal in Rockland and not guaranteed even if you have a parking pass. It's almost 300\$ to pay for parking for the year in the lot by the ferry, but it's also a first come first serve basis with no limits on passes that are sold. It's a risk even taking your vehicle out during the summer because you likely will not find a space when you return. Vinalhaven gets freight by a VH owned trucking company. They go over daily, sometimes multiple times a day bringing out freight for our grocery store, small businesses, Viking Lumber, and several restaurants. Hammond lumber brings out lots of supplies per job when needed. A challenge for the freight to get to VH is what happens when there is no longer a locally owned trucking company, is there no back-up plan. Another concern is the cost of goods. Everything costs so much just to get here so each business needs to charge more to make a profit and keep the doors open. Vinalhaven is also served by UPS, Fedex and USPS. All workers live on VH, but ride ferry daily to get packages for delivery. The main barge that serves VH is Island Transport. They are available for use when

needed at an hourly rate. If a special trip is needed to get to the mainland, you hopefully have a great connection who has a boat. There are no water taxis, no supplemental transportation companies.

## Peaks

- What kind of passenger transportation serves your island?
  - Nonprofit, for-profit, or Maine State Ferry Service – Casco Bay Lines – one of the oldest ferry systems in the country – 150 years. Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD), a quasi-municipal, non-profit corporation, was established on April 17, 1981 through the State legislature. Provides services to six Casco Bay islands: Peaks Island, Little Diamond Island, Great Diamond Island and Cliff Island (which are within the City of Portland), and the Towns of Long Island and Chebeague Island.
  - Fleet includes 5 vessels, all handle about 400 passengers, the ferry servicing Peaks also has a capacity for 12 vehicles.
  - Air/boat options - none
  - Can vehicles travel on the regular passenger boat that serves your island? Yes, 12 vehicles. New ferry next year with capacity of 15 vehicles/599 passengers. Thanks to congressional delegation for ferry funding.

Note: year-round population of approximately 1,000/summer 3,000-4,000. Summer day trippers up to 5,000 on a busy weekend day. Serious safety, infrastructure and capacity challenges with tourism influx (lack of public restrooms, insufficiency of roads, state pier overcrowding with vehicles, golf carts, bicycles, pedestrians, freight, etc.).

- What is the regular transportation schedule for your island?
  - How many trips per day/days per week (or per month)? 15-16 per day depending on day of the week (varies seasonally)/7 days week
  - How long is the trip/trips? 18 minutes
  - How does the schedule change with the seasons? Slightly reduced off-season, fewer car ferries
- How much does a boat/plane ticket cost? In-season adult \$7.70, off-season \$4.10 vehicle \$82.65/36.65. Monthly and annual passes available
  - Are there senior, resident, student, child, or other discounts? yes
  - Are there any major concerns about the overall affordability of island life related to transportation? In season vehicle fares are a challenge for lower income residents.
- Tell us about mainland parking: Major issue. Availability of garage space is limited and expensive, and street parking is extremely limited with the development of the Old Port and influx of tourism.
  - How much does parking cost? With ¾ mile of ferry terminal between \$140-200 monthly
  - Parking is usually challenging on the mainland- briefly describe those challenges your island experiences. Availability and cost
- How does your island get freight (including USPS and FedEx, etc.)? Yes, daily delivery via CBL and USPS, FedEx, UPS
  - Please describe any challenges your island experiences around freight. None. CBL rates are reasonable and service is frequent and reliable.
- What barge serves your island? Lionel Plante Associates LPA
  - Please, share any quick details about rates that you would like.
- How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation?

- Water taxi? Yes
- Supplemental transportation companies? No. CBL has state mandated exclusivity
- Chartering the regular transportation service provider? yes

### **Great Diamond**

We have a 20 minute ferry ride from Great Diamond on a Maine. State funded ferry. We pay more in season up towards 10 dollars a ticket and half that off season. There are child and senior prices. There is no public transportation or ubers on island. It's about a mile long. Diamond Cove provides their homeowners a bus which is allowed to pass through the gate off season to the public side. The city bus does come to the ferry terminal regularly in Portland. The ferry departs about every 1 to 2 hours to and from the Island. We use Lionel Plant barge Co. And many water taxis.

### **North Haven**

- What kind of passenger transportation serves your island?
  - Maine State Ferry Service
  - There is a private boat, the equinox and limited flights from Penobscot Island Air, which is extremely limited in when they are able to come due to scheduling and weather limitations.
  - Can vehicles travel on the regular passenger boat that serves your island? Yes
- What is the regular transportation schedule for your island?
  - How many trips per day/days per week (or per month)? 3x per day
  - How long is the trip/trips? Appx 1 hour
  - How does the schedule change with the seasons? No
- How much does a boat/plane ticket cost?
  - Are there senior, resident, student, child, or other discounts? Child discounts, only.
  - Are there any major concerns about the overall affordability of island life related to transportation? Limited transportation limits island economic development, especially in getting workers out to the island.
- Tell us about mainland parking:
  - How much does parking cost? Same as Vinalhaven
  - Parking is usually challenging on the mainland- briefly describe those challenges your island experiences. Never guaranteed on mainland
- How does your island get freight (including USPS and FedEx, etc.)?
  - Please describe any challenges your island experiences around freight. All freight comes in trucks via ferry
- What barge serves your island?
  - Please, share any quick details about rates that you would like. Island Transporter and Midcoast Bargeworks
- How does your island arrange for special trips, beyond regularly scheduled transportation?
  - Water taxi? Yes- Equinox
  - Supplemental transportation companies? Equinox, other small operators
  - Chartering the regular transportation service provider? No

