

Boat Access Committee Meeting Notes for October 5, 2021

Present at the meeting:

Mary Ross, Chris Immer, Alan Krum, Larry Roteman, Lane Coury, Paul Davis, Dave Perry, Bob Auld, Nick Kluge, , Christine Green, Olivia Marshall, Greg Hall, Tim Robinson, Connie Berry

Folks that had signed up but were unable to attend that still indicated they were interested include Scott Coughlin, Sandi Fukumoto, Judy Thomas, Richard Frye, and Cathi Shornick (Cathi cannot be part of committee right now but is interested in what we are doing).

No corrections on last week's notes.

Task Group Report on Research into Possible Access Sites

Bob A, Larry R, and Dave P met with Isaac (Project Manager from Scenic Estates) and reviewed the idea of creating a launch site/float to be used for urgent access on/off the island.

Dave P explains that they did discuss possibility of a sliding ramp. Notes that Scenic Estate boat ramps are typically pulled out by end of October. The surf gets quite rough in storms and has broken the dock in the past.

Chris Immer has talked again to Isaac after initial meeting to provide additional input. He felt no other action needed by the committee at this time.

The task group drove around the island and made several notes about possible sites (very preliminary):

- Old Marina on Legoe Bay has existing pilings, but property is owned by the Lummi Nation.
- Beach across from the Granger's Beach on Nugent - ownership of that property includes 3 or more parties, so getting access approved could be complicated.
- Aiston Preserve sounds like it might support an emergency landing craft access point and helicopter landing site – should committee follow up with Lummi Island Heritage Trust?
- The public beach across from Beach Store Café sounds like the most likely candidate for a long term public dock project. According to county tax assessor records, the tidelands between the county beach and the ferry dock are owned by the county.

Task Group Report on Research Into Solutions on Other Islands

Mary R has made a list of islands that have community docks. There are 14 community docks (some islands have more than one) that are NOT state park docks.

Mary R also got info from Sinclair Island in Skagit County (40 permanent residents). Used to have public dock but it was destroyed by storms and has not been replaced since 2012.

Stuart Island has a small landing craft beach that allows unloading supplies, propane trucks, autos to be delivered to the island it also has two state park docks and a community dock. Stuart island has a population of about 20 full time residents.

Discussion on EMERGENCY versus URGENT Response

*The committee is focusing on a solution for **URGENT** response. It is helpful to clarify the current arrangements that Lummi Island has in place for **EMERGENCY** response. Chris Immer explained:*

Fireboats can be deployed from Bellingham Fire Dept and from Sandy Point. Assume approximately 30 minutes before they can roll out in an emergency. These service agreements are mandated by city council – and response vehicles must be piloted by licensed captains only. No one can attach anything to the ferry terminal.

The committee should NOT assume that we can get public access to the ferry dock, per current county public works administration statements.

Alternatives for Service During Ferry Outage

There is a contract with the county to provide a foot passenger alternative, but it still takes time to deploy. Even on a clear, sunny day if the ferry were to go out of service, it takes a long time for the county to respond and provide an alternative.

Island Marine Transport out of Anacortes is one possibility for alternative service. Probably 90 mins at least, just to get here.

Idea: Should we discuss with county that their plan could be enhanced to provide a faster response?

Remember this access means getting people off of the island AND getting people onto the island, like the technicians who need to fix power lines, etc.

Other ideas for long term partnerships - talk to the LI Fire Dept. Maybe consider LIFD purchase of a landing craft.

Next Action Steps for the Committee

All agree that we need to narrow the committee's focus/scope/goal. Greg suggests we have at least two steps: (1) Define the problem. (2.) Describe solution which may have multiple opportunities.

Tim B. reminds us that the more public benefits/purposes that we can define, the higher likelihood of successful funding.

Last session, Chris Immer shared a **Get er Done** checklist suggested by Island resident Terry Terry who is currently a member of the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission. (Go to [Reference Documents and Links](#) and scroll down the page to find this resource and to see examples). Committee started to work through steps 2 and 3 tonight.

Step #2: What is Proposed

DRAFT STATEMENT - A committee to establish a community dock.

Send out this statement for review and get input from all committee members.

Olivia points out that by making a public statement that this committee is to establish a community dock, then we might have more people who want to be involved in the discussion.

Talked about ways to collect additional input from community members. Alan points out that polls are built into the [Our Lummi Island website](#). This can be an effective way to get feedback after the committee has put together preliminary drafts.

Step #3: Form the Committee

Alan says that he believes that the LICA Board has approved this committee. Mary to confirm at next LICA meeting. Need to have at least one member from LICA Board on the committee, which Mary is.

Confirmed willingness to be on the committee:

- Present at this meeting: Chris I (Chair), Larry, Mary, Alan, Dave, Lane, Nick, Tim,
- Per discussion with Mary: Greg Hall, Sandi Fukumoto

Alan reminds us - be thorough, but do not worry about making the committee too formalized.

NEXT MEETING - 6:30 on Sunday, 10/10/21