

TOWN OF LONG ISLAND, MAINE

COVID – 19 SELECTMEN LETTER TO THE TOWN

DATE: March 30, 2020

This letter to Town's citizens is based on our most up to date information. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, by the time you read this things may have changed. The Selectmen, working with the Town Administrator are placing regular updates on the Town Website townoflongisland.us and through the LICA List Serve. The information is also usually posted on the Long Island Facebook page by others. Keep in mind that the only official information is posted on the Town Website and we are very grateful to Curt Murley for keeping this site up to date.

As this newsletter goes to print, the Board will be voting to postpone the annual Town Meeting until mid-June (date to be set later this week). We feel that having the budget and elected officials confirmed prior to the end of the current fiscal year (June 30) will be better than postponing longer. The issue of how and where to hold the meeting while maintaining social distance will be discussed as we go along. Pre-Town meeting public hearings will be adjusted accordingly.

The Selectmen have been concerned for the safety for the Town staff, its citizens and the EMS staff that volunteer so much to help this community. Our decisions are based on the COVID-19 risk, the current underlying physical and mental health of the residents and helping everyone ride this out with what they need to feel safe.

The only facilities operating at this time are the Boat House Store, the gas pump twice a week, and the Transfer Station for household waste only. The Transfer Station is continuing on Winter hours but we have added a second pickup weekly on Thursday to reduce traffic at the station. Construction and heavy waste will be accepted only by appointment and at the discretion of the operators. Town Hall is closed through at least April the 14th, but is conducting business through e-mail. All contact information is on the Town

Web Site. The school is closed to classroom teaching through April the 27th and the entire Learning Facility (school, auditorium, and library as well as the Community Center are closed to all but essential personnel. The Wellness Center is closed until Maine Health is able to start up their visits again.

RETURNING ISLAND RESIDENTS/VISITORS

We are asking residents who are returning to the island from winter stays or vacations elsewhere to be responsible and heed the current warnings coming from the Federal and State CDC offices concerning travel and the risk of spread. The Town continues to suggest two-week self-quarantine and planning on minimum or no contact with other Islanders during that period of time if you **must** return. We are also asking those that provide short term rentals to reconsider those rentals in the near term to again minimize the spread. The Select Board is not ordering anyone to do these things as we have no authority to do so, nor would we even with that authority. Many of you worked your entire life to own a piece of the Island and it is your decision. It makes no difference if you are a long time Islander or new to our community, we understand the stress that you are all under.

But please consider the risk you expose your community to by coming to the Island. Our community has an aging population and our resources are stretched. We don't have the ability to help care for you if you get sick. You would have to go to the mainland which is already feeling the strain. Casco Bay Lines has reduced service to 3 boats a day which greatly hinders travel.

It would be a great help to us if you stayed where you are right now. We appreciate you as you are all family and you are what make this Island what it is to so many. We look forward to seeing you when the pandemic passes. Again, if you are determined to return to the island, we urge you to bring your own food, pharmaceuticals and other needed supplies with you

so as not to diminish the limited supplies available on the island as you self-quarantine for the recommended 14 days.

Joe Donovan, for the Long Island Selectboard