

# March 17 2020

## Covid-19 Update

The Select Board met Monday evening to discuss appropriate Town responses to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Present were Joe Donovan (Chair), Marie Harmon, John Burke and about a half dozen citizens. Included were members of the Town EMS Staff, Town Constable, Finance Committee, Planning Board and Town Public Works Contractor. We thank all attending for their thoughts and valuable insight.

The Board is approaching this situation from the point of trying to relieve all members of the community from any added stress from things we can control. We cannot remove all the stress but hopefully can lessen it a little. No votes were taken this evening; however, we have put certain things in place.

We reviewed information from the Federal, State, Cumberland County, Maine EMS, Greater Portland Council of Governments and postings from area towns to try to be comprehensive. It is a daunting task and we are continuing to stay up to date throughout this crisis. As we weather this we are concerned with the physical, financial, and mental health (stress) of our citizens. We must help each other and our vulnerable neighbors get through this. We are in communication with our fantastic Changing Tide organization to mutually support each other to help our needy.

As many of you have seen, the Town of North Haven issued a notice last night concerning what they are planning. It was forwarded to us and we discussed the notice and wish to note that what one Town or Island feels right for them does not mean it is right for Long Island. That being said the Town has no intention of preventing Island residents and families from returning to their homes. That is not us. We also do not intend to forbid off-island contractors from working on the Island. We wish to be safe but we also want to be reasonable and stress that this situation is a shared responsibility that all our residents and guests must help on.

**The Town has no medical facilities or staff and our EMS is manned by volunteers.** We wish to convey to all returning residents, coming home from

anywhere, to follow the CDC advice concerning social distancing, self-monitoring, staying home if sick, and practicing good hygiene to prevent the spread of the disease. The most important concern for all is that if someone is infected or exposed that they remember that our current population is almost 75% high risk due to age and underlying conditions.

This also applies to contractors and others. Island contractors and owners that are bringing crews from the mainland are responsible to ensure that those coming are not sick. Prior to coming they should speak in person to them and verify they are not sick. They should meet with them and confirm they understand our concerns and send them back if they don't. This is doing your part for the safety of all of us. Meanwhile any project that can be postponed for a few weeks should be considered. It is hard to pass on this good early spring weather but we all must work together.

The EMS crews are trained and ready to assist on all 911 calls and are working daily with Cumberland County Dispatch, Maine EMS and Maine CDC. The Town has no ability or staff to test for the virus nor do we expect any. If you become sick or start to show symptoms such as a fever, respiratory stress and coughs we want you to call your primary Doctor and follow their advice. If your Doctor recommends that you need to go to Town please call 911 so we can control your transportation. If they wish you to just Self-Isolate, please contact the Town EMS to explain your situation so the EMS are aware. **Please do not just decide to take yourself via CBL and put other Islanders and crews at risk.**

### **Town Actions until at least March 30**

***Effective immediately Town Hall is closed for at least two weeks to all public business and visitors.*** The Town staff will be primarily working from home and conducting routine business through their phones, postal and e-mail. Documents may be left at Town Hall in the mail slot to the right of the front door.

Reregistration's of ISLAND ONLY vehicles and parking permits will be waived until such time as the Town office can process them. This does not exempt you from

maintaining current liability insurance. In-town cars must be reregistered as required by the law and by appointment with the Tax Collector.

All Town employees returning from travel anywhere outside the State of Maine will be told to self-quarantine and not return to work for two weeks.

No meetings will be held or activities permitted in any Town Facility including the Learning Center (Library/School), Community Center or Town Hall. This includes the Historical Society and Pottery Room. If you have projects on going with the pottery shop please arrange to secure or remove them.

We request that all friend and family gatherings be limited to 10 guests or less.

The school and library have been closed for two weeks however the Emergency Shelter will remain in service if needed, the Wellness center will operate when we get an update on Maine Health availability and high speed internet access is still available outside the facility.

### **Transfer Station-Until Further Notice**

To help protect our transfer station staff we are making the following changes to reduce visits to the transfer station.

Starting Thursday Mar 18 trash roadside pickup will begin to be Twice a Week, on Mondays and Thursdays. The Town will pick up both household and recycled waste, bagged and covered.

Finally, a correction to a previous notice, the Transfer Station will remain open during its regularly scheduled hours. However, only household and recycle waste will be accepted during normal hours. All large items and construction waste will be refused and only accepted by appointment with Jim or John. Also, no returnable cans or bottles will be accepted for now.

### **Casco Bay Lines**

Please check the website of Casco Bay Lines for updates. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed in the terminal and on the boats. You can also click on the GET TEXT UPDATES box on their website's home page to receive alerts.

**We wish to send information for what the Town is doing with a minimum amount of noise. All official Town information will be on the Town Web Page [www.townoflongisland.us](http://www.townoflongisland.us) from the Town Administrator, Brian Dudley. All School information will come from the school superintendent Barbara Powers and will be sent to the school parents.**

Please reach out to us via e-mail with concerns, questions and suggestions. Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, wipe down surfaces and stay healthy. We will get through this and no one will ever believe the stories years from now. This is a moving target and we will all try and stay on it.

Select Board Chair Joe Donovan, Marie Harmon, John Burke  
(selectmen@longislandmaine.org) or Joe's home phone 207-766-5644

Brian Dudley Town Administrator (townadmin@longislandmaine.org or 207-831-3800).