

# **TOWN OF LONG ISLAND, MAINE**

## **COVID – 19 UPDATES**

**DATE: April 20, 2020**

(If you have a printer, please share the notices with others lacking internet access.)

### **SELECTMEN'S LETTER**

**WE ARE NOT THERE YET.**

This beautiful spring day brings with it some flowers and buds, but is still quiet without the usual influx of visitors and seasonal residents. Yes, we have had a few, that for their own reasons could not wait, but the Island continues to be a refuge in this storm for year-rounders. The residents are proud of the separation challenges they have endured through this, as those that stayed on the mainland should be just as proud of their efforts. It has taken an unprecedented effort by all to do this and it appears it is working, but we need to hold the course for a little while longer. We all want to be back on our Island together again.

The Select Board is fielding questions every day as to what are we going to do when seasonal owners and visitors come back to the Island. We are hoping for more guidance from the State, but the truth is that the entire country is facing this question. Every State that has large seasonal populations is struggling with this. As we stated back when North Haven tried to ban folks, every Island is different and that policy was not us. What one State does, or even what Maine does, may need to be adjusted for our island. We are counting on all to realize the severity of this situation and respect their neighbors.

On Friday I participated in a Maine Island Coalition video meeting. We are in better shape than some other island communities. We have a trained EMS department and our own ambulance boat. We are close to the major medical facilities in this State. Unlike many Islands we have no public hotels/motels and no full-service restaurants that when they open will be attracting visitors who do not understand our limited services. However, we do have a large amount of rental properties that the owners rely on for income. One estimate was as high as 50 homes are available for short- or

long-term rentals on Long Island. It was noted how important these are to our citizens but we have no “Central Registry” to communicate with the owners concerning their issues or rental plans going forward. All the islands and much of the State are looking for a coming-home policy. This will continue to be a major part of discussions. We will be reaching out to all Rental owners for contact information, and to request they give us some ideas on how they will handle their rentals this season. Hopefully we can share ideas from others that may help them plan.

The Select Board continues to ask for thoughts and input to help us develop guidance going forward. Meanwhile, we ask all those returning to follow the Maine Governor’s Executive Order and quarantine for two weeks when returning to your summer home. Come prepared with needed supplies and although neighbors will try to help you if you get in trouble, you need to be ready for the possibility that they cannot. Simple things such as calling for a local contractor to fix a water leak, getting your car or golf cart running, or fixing an appliance could put them at risk and they may not be available. The quarantine is critical especially if you are sick or may have been recently exposed to the virus, as that can further put our EMS at risk. Remember that Casco Bay Lines continues to only run 3 boats a day. Social Distancing is being practiced by everyone, on the Island and on the ferries, so please remember to honor this when you see your neighbors.

Please stay safe and keep doing what you have for a little while longer. We will continue to post information and updates as appropriate. We miss you and we will get through this.

Joe Donovan-Long Island Selectboard Chair