

**PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
PRUDENCE ISLAND MEETING  
OCTOBER 17, 2020 (SATURDAY)  
AGENDA**

On Saturday, October 17, 2020, at 9:00 AM, the Portsmouth Town Council meeting will be live streamed on the web and by phone dial-in using the Zoom remote meeting service. Please note that any displayed documentation during the meeting will be visible through the web or mobile device but will not be visible using the phone dial-in option.

**To access the meeting by phone dial-in**, please dial: **1-888-788-0099**

Once prompted for the meeting ID, please dial: **996-8471-9966#**

Once prompted for a participant ID, **dial # again**.

**You will now be in the meeting.**

While in the audio conference, **to raise your hand to ask a question, dial \*9** and the host will be notified of your interest to ask a question. **Dial \*6 to mute and unmute yourself.**

**To access the meeting through the web** using a computer or mobile device, go to the following web link in any browser (i.e. Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, etc.) to run the Zoom app and view the meeting:

<https://livestream.portsmouthri.com/towncouncil>

**Using your laptop or mobile device, you can raise your hand to ask a question, or pose the question in the moderated Question and Answering chat window.** The host will then be able to respond to your raised hand or Q&A question.

**9:00 AM - TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PORTSMOUTH TOWN HALL, 2200 EAST MAIN ROAD**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

1. Roll Call

**OLD BUSINESS (DISCUSSION/ACTION)**

1. Prudence Island Internet update. / A. Shenberger, American Broadband (5) (no backup)
2. National Grid status report and updates. / J. Alfonso, National Grid (15) (no backup)
3. Update on boat ramp repairs. / B. Woodhead (10) (no backup)

**NEW BUSINESS (DISCUSSION/ACTION)**

1. Update on Prudence & Bay Islands Transport and policies due to COVID-19. / A & R Marine (5)
2. Open forum for discussion and Q & A for Prudence Island issues. / K. Aguiar
  - a. Request for a Hazardous Waste Disposal Event on Prudence Island.
  - b. Discussion on Hazard or Hazards to navigation in the Homestead mooring and the possibility of the Town asking DEM to help with remediation action.
  - c. Discussion on the cost of yard waste removal off island and being closed entirely during the fall and winter months.

Documents:

[COVID Announcement And Updates Through 9-2.Pdf](#)  
[2020-06-26-Phase-3-Ferry-Guidance-FINAL.pdf](#)

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Oct 26 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

Nov 09 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting  
Nov 23 7:00 PM -Town Council Meeting

**ADJOURN**

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Town's boards or its committees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 683-2101 at least (3) business days prior to the meeting. POSTED 10/13/20

# **Please read below Prudence & Bay Islands Transport's policies and updates on the COVID-19 pandemic**

## **Update September 2nd, 2020**

- The Governor has again extended the [Executive order](#) for Phase III through September 28th, 2020. [Guidelines for ferry service](#) remain the same and we will continue to follow the guidelines put out by RI Department of Health. Passenger capacity is limited and we highly recommend making all reservations for vehicles and walk-on passengers well in advance.

## **Update July 29th, 2020**

- The Governor has extended the Executive order for Phase III through August 28th, 2020. There are no changes to ferry capacity guidelines at this time, which is weather dependent and allows our vessel to carry 60 passengers in inclement weather and 90 passengers in fair weather. Passenger capacity will not be increased to 90 until the weather is guaranteed to be clear during travel time. If the forecast is showing low or no chance of rain, capacity will be increased no more than two days prior. If forecast is showing potential rain, capacity will be increased on a run-by-run basis meaning only at ferry time as weather allows.
- Please remember to wear facial coverings at all times when at ferry terminals and on-board ferry vessels.

## **Update June 30th, 2020**

- Phase III of Reopening RI begins June 30th. There are no changes from Phase II in regards to ferry guidelines. Therefore passenger capacity will remain at 30-40% during inclement weather and 50-60% during fair weather. Passengers are reminded to follow spacing demarcations in regards to social distancing at ticketing offices and on-board, to wear facial coverings, and if riding in a vehicle to remain in the vehicle for the duration of ferry travel. [Click Here](#) to read the fully Ferry Operations Guidelines for Phase III.
- Please note new travel restrictions are in place for visitors to Rhode Island. All travelers coming into Rhode Island from a state with a positivity rate of more than 5% are required to quarantine for 14 days, unless they can show proof that they've tested negative for the disease within the three days prior to entering. The list of states with more than 5% positivity are [listed here](#).

## **Update May 27th 2020**

- Phase II of Reopening RI will begin on Monday June 1st. Most guidelines pertaining to ferry operations including the passenger capacity limits remain the same as Phase I. [Click Here](#) to read the full Ferry Operations Guidelines for Phase II.

## **Update May 20th 2020**

- Over the last several weeks Prudence & Bay Islands Transport has been working with the R.I Governor's Office and R.I Public Utilities Commission to help develop guidelines for safe ferry operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click Here](#) to read the following Ferry Operations Guidelines that PBIT and other R.I ferry services will be following during Phase I of R.I re-opening.
- The Herbert C. Bonner has returned to service. In accordance with the Ferry Operation Guidelines for Phase 1, capacity on board will be limited to 60 – 90 passengers, all ferry reservation should be made in advance.

- Please note that the following policies remain in effect:
  - All customers and PBIT employees are required to wear a face covering while on board the ferry and while at the ferry ticketing offices
  - All passengers driving or riding in vehicles must remain in the vehicle for the duration of the ferry ride
  - Any potential passengers who have tested positive for, are experiencing symptoms consistent with or have been exposed to COVID-19 must call the ferry office 401-683-0430 to arrange travel.
- To read the latest PBIT Newsletter [Click Here](#)

#### **Update April 30th 2020**

- The 50 passenger vessel capacity has been extended through May 18th.

#### **Update April 27th 2020**

- Read our latest [Newsletter](#) with updates on the COVID-19 pandemic, grocery/freight deliveries and the Bonner return.

#### **Update April 23rd 2020**

- Following the executive order from the Governors office on Saturday April 18th all PBIT employees have been instructed to wear face coverings while working in a customer facing role.
- Prudence & Bay Islands Transport also asks that all customers who are able to wear a face covering without compromising their personal health do so while riding in the cabins on the ferry and while interacting with ferry staff and other ferry passengers. Thank you all for your efforts in preventing the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus.

#### **Update April 16<sup>th</sup> 2020**

- Deliveries from CVS State St. have been reduced to Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Call CVS at 401-253-8808 with any questions.

#### **Update April 15<sup>th</sup> 2020**

- The 50 passenger ferry capacity has been extended through April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- In following the latest executive order from the RI Governor's office, any person utilizing cabins or who are unable to maintain a 6 ft distance from other customers/crew members are asked to wear face coverings.
- Please keep track of the dates and times you travel aboard the ferry. The Governor and Public Health Officials are urging everyone to keep track of the places you visit each day and the names of people you encounter. If you get sick, you will be expected to give those records to the R.I. Health Department, so public health officials can track down others who might have also been exposed to the disease.

#### **Update March 31st 2020**

- In following the latest guidelines from State and Town authorities, there is now a limit of 5 passengers per cabin.
- The 50 passenger ferry capacity will remain in place through April 13th and may be extended beyond that date if necessary.

## Update March 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

Please note the following changes to policies for customers travelling on-board PBIT vessels.

- A limit of 10 passengers per cabin has been put in place to increase distance between passengers.
- Passengers traveling in vehicles must stay in their vehicles. Restrooms remain open and available to customers but please return to your vehicle following restroom use.
- Please continue to book all reservations online or by phone to avoid the use of paper tickets. If you must use paper tickets, please show the ticket to the crew when boarding and dispose of the ticket yourself.
- We advise all customers to pay attention to the messages released to the public by the Town of Portsmouth, Town of Bristol and State of Rhode Island and to follow all guidelines regarding travel, self-quarantine, social gathering etc. The links below will direct you to the Town of Portsmouth, Town of Bristol and State of RI coronavirus information pages for the latest updates.
  - Town of Portsmouth <https://www.portsmouthri.com/1594/Portsmouth-Specific-Coronavirus-Infomat>
  - Town of Bristol <https://www.bristolri.us/738/COVID-19>
  - State of Rhode Island <https://health.ri.gov/covid/>

**Please read our full statement on the Covid-19 outbreak listed below, updates on our policies regarding the virus outbreak will continue to be posted on this page. Please call our Prudence Office with any questions at 401-683-0430 and stay healthy!**

The health and well-being of our customers and crew is of the utmost concern to everyone at Prudence & Bay Islands Transport. Please help us to keep fellow passengers and crew healthy during this time by following the recommendations of the CDC including frequent hand washing, maintaining social distance and minimizing unnecessary travel. We ask that whenever possible customers take the following steps to maintain social distance:

- Utilize the ticket window on the side of the Prudence Office rather than entering the office to purchase tickets and receive packages.
- Make all reservations including passenger reservations online or by calling the Prudence office at (401) 683-0430. With online and phone reservations you will be provided a bar code which can be scanned from your phone, other device or printed paper; preventing the need to exchange paper tickets.
- For package and CVS pickup, watch for a text alert for when your package or medication arrives and avoid coming during ferry arrival/departure times to receive your items.

**If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with the coronavirus including fever and respiratory distress (persistent cough, difficulty breathing, etc) and need to travel on board the ferry please notify the office at 401-683-0430 so accommodations can be made for your travel.**

We are listening to the advice of the Rhode Island Department of Health, the CDC, and other health agencies. We are taking many precautions to avoid contributing to the spread of the coronavirus including:

- Sanitizing all cabins, surfaces, and office spaces between morning and afternoon ferry runs and at the end of the day.
- Employee training on the importance of hand washing and utilizing hand sanitizer when water is unavailable and gloves have been provided to crew members.
- Making hand sanitizer available to employees and passengers in our ticket offices and on board the ferry.
- Following recommendations by local health agencies and the USCG we have limited the number of passengers allowed on board to 50 and encourage people to travel only as necessary for lifeline services. We will continue to operate our regularly scheduled runs which based on our average

ridership for March & April should more than accommodate passengers needs even with a 50-passenger capacity.

- Text alerts will be sent to notify customers for all packages and CVS deliveries, to avoid unnecessary trips to the ferry office. Phone calls can be made to customers without text service.

If you have not already done so please sign up for our [Text Alert System](#) to receive updates on this matter as well as information about ferry cancellations, added runs and package deliveries.

**Thank you for your help and we hope that by implementing these precautions all our customers and employees will remain healthy!**

# REOPENING RI

## Phase III ferry operation and sightseeing operation guidelines

Beginning on June 30, 2020, ferry and sightseeing operations may continue essential lifeline services and begin seasonal service. In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) emergency regulations, ferry and sightseeing operators must prepare and implement a [COVID-19 Control Plan](#). The RIDOH emergency regulations can be found [here](#). The State prepared a [guidance document](#) to assist businesses in meeting the requirements outlined in these RIDOH regulations. Ferry operators and sightseeing operators must comply with RIDOH regulations and active [executive orders](#).

The guidelines below summarize **additional** steps Rhode Island is requiring or asking ferry and sightseeing operators to take.

If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact Joseph Masino at [Joseph.Masino@governor.ri.gov](mailto:Joseph.Masino@governor.ri.gov).

### Phase III Operations:

- **Physical distancing:** Passengers, whenever possible, must follow the regulations in [216-RICR-50-15-7 - Safe Activities By Covered Entities During the COVID-19 Emergency](#). Passengers are responsible for maintaining physical distancing at all times possible. Operators can assist with physical distancing on the vessel if they so choose, this includes, but is not limited to, boarding by party size and assigned seating. In addition, to allow for adequate distancing, ferry operators will limit cabin capacity and request passengers to remain with their vehicles, if [safe to do so](#), or on deck during the duration of the trip (weather dependent). Operators should place spacing demarcations at ticket booths, concessions, and boarding lines.
- **Capacity:** In order to maintain physical distancing, capacity should be limited to 30% to 60% of the operating vessel's capacity (based on ridership demand, weather elements, and sea conditions). If needed, ferry operations will be allowed to operate additional vessels to run the routes (based on ridership demand, weather elements, and sea conditions). When weather and sea conditions limit outdoor seating, ferry operators should limit capacity to 30%-40%. When outdoor seating is not limited, operators should limit capacity to 50%-60%.
- **Screening Signage:** COVID-19 screening signage should be posted at the entrances and high-traffic areas. For lifeline ferries, added safety protocols should be posted for boarding passengers needing transport for residence, medical, or essential services.
- **Cleaning Procedures:** All cabins and commonly touched surfaces such as handrails, tabletops, and restrooms on the vessel must be sanitized between runs and at the end of the day. The entire vessel also must be thoroughly cleaned at least once a day.
- **Food & Beverage Sales:** All food and beverage sales shall follow the most recent executive orders and regulations related to restaurants.
- **Bookings:** All ticket sales should be done online whenever possible to eliminate the need for paper tickets and to encourage cashless transactions. Service providers should inform customers of encouraging cashless transactions through social media and on company websites.
- **Face Coverings:** All persons (employees and passengers) are required to wear face coverings in accordance with RIDOH regulations and [Executive Order 20-41](#). Nothing in this guidance shall require a place of business to refuse entry to a customer not wearing a face covering.
- **Customer Service:** Employees must wear face coverings while working in customer-facing roles. Employees are required to wash and sanitize their hands on a routine basis. Employees in positions that require direct contact with customers should wear gloves only if normally required to do so, along with their face coverings.