From:	Paul Castle
To:	Public Comment
Cc:	Sharoan Cohen
Subject:	CBL Discussion/vote on the future status of Wednesday Reduced Rate Car ferries from Portland to Peaks
Date:	Monday, May 22, 2023 10:55:09 AM

Please enter my comments in the CBL meetings discussing and voting on the future of Reduced Wednesday Car Ferry Rates to Peaks Island.

From: Paul Castle - 2 Island Ave #4, Peaks Island, Maine

1) Absolutely NO VOTE Should be taken by the CBL Board of Directors until after open Public Hearings on the Wednesday Reduced Rate Car ferries to Peaks are HELD in evenings or on weekends ON PEAKS ISLAND for full discussion of ideas and concerns of the islanders who are affected. This is a Peaks Island issue not a Down the Bay Islands issue! All Casco Bay Lines Board Members from ALL of the Islands served need to participate in pubic hearings on Peaks.

2) Reduced Rate Wednesday Car Ferry Service SHOULD be continued as in the past with NO BOARD VOTE to Discontinue this Needed Service.

3) Consideration should be given to adding Tuesdays also as a Reduced Car Ferry rate day to Peaks. If this was done Wednesdays could be for passenger cars ONLY and trucks/trailers/large vehicles/campers etc could be given priority on Tuesdays.

4) The City of Portland has caused some part of the car ferry congestion to happen by several years ago selling the controlling share of the Casco Bay Garage to non city/private ownership which has allowed the continual increase in year round residents parking garage rates and very high hourly/daily rates which cause people to drive back and forth to Peaks rather than park in the garage. This one major issue is responsible for much off the increase in use of Reduced Rate Wednesday car ferry service. Many Peaks Islanders gave up their year round parking garage space and chose to only go off by car on Wednesdays during the Summer Rate Season thus increasing Car Ferry Demand on Wednesdays.

5) The proper solution to congestion issues is NOT TO STOP OFFERING The REDUCED RATE Wednesday Car Ferry Service to Peaks. The solution has to be what other services are needed to be provided in the future to adequately handle the increased demand and reduce the safety concerns. It will take some brainstorming with multiple ideas with maybe some trial changes to try to get it right and relieve some of the issues.
Working thru some additional positive changes will be the difficult part - However just voting to stop the Wednesday Reduced Rate Car ferry service to Peaks is TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT and will create even more long term issues that will have to be dealt with than we all have currently.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Paul Castle 5-22-2023

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Visit the following link to report this email as spam:
https://us3.proofpointessentials.com/index01.php?mod_id &mod_option=gitem&mail_id 84767303-panoBFxt9NxJ&r_address=mment%40cascobaylines.com&report=