

Ferry Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2018; 5:30 pm
Mary Fields School

Attending:

Committee Members: Chris Sutcliffe
Sylvia Wampler
Pam Cobb

Guests: Judy Barth
Dennis Sutcliffe
John Coulter
Eddie Pennebaker
Julie Pennebaker

Today's discussions dealt with the parking problems (again) and the discontinuation of the Friends and Family plan.

There is a great deal of confusion about the discontinuation of the Friends and Family plan. This plan was devised at the end of 2017 and offered to people (residents with reserved parking) who did not want to prepay all or part of the 2018 at the \$30 rate(given that the price was going up to \$50 a month on 1 January 2018). Much discussion ensued about the \$50 Friends and Family rate and if it was for those who prepaid after January 1st for the entire year OR if the plan was for those who chose to pay monthly. No consensus was reached.

However, the 2 free tickets that were included in the Friends and Family plan will no longer be given upon payment of the parking fee. Unfortunately, this was not well publicized by the Ferry Company so confusion reigns. People were under the impression that the plan would continue through to the end of the year; the Ferry Company says the residents were told the plan could be discontinued at any time. A compromise was suggested: If people will pay in advance for the rest of the year (\$300), they would be given the 2 free tickets for each month until the end of the calendar year. Judy Barth said she will take that suggestion to Richard Inglis.

Since some people are finding it difficult to pay the \$50 rate, there was great concern about those on fixed incomes being saddled with higher parking fees – especially when the day trippers park for free, often in the residents' spaces. The perception is that some of the spots are sold two and three times in a day when a resident is out of town and not using the space. People would far prefer to pay less for the parking, and have the day trippers pay a fee (\$10 was mentioned). Judy Barth will take that suggestion, also, to Richard Inglis.

We hope Richard and the Daufuskie Island Ferry Company Board will see fit to accept both suggestions.

One couple is debating if they should accept the resident's parking place, which they were offered recently, or continue to park at the Fruit Stand for a lower rate than the \$50 Resident Parking Rate. They are concerned that a parking space will not always be available to them in the Buckingham Landing parking lot, when they are guaranteed a space at the Fruit Stand for a lower fee. Judy Barth assured them they could request to go to the bottom of the list should

they decide to stay with the Fruit Stand for now. This may be a concern for the Ferry Company because other people may also find parking elsewhere more economically.

A number of residents have voiced their concerns that if they leave their parking places to do their errands, they will not be able to park in the Buckingham Landing lot because the spaces are now occupied by non-paying day trippers or by vacationers.

Richard will be again encouraged to request of the County that day trippers and vacationers be allowed to park in the free parking lot behind the County Building. The hope was that large family parties who visit would take only one paid parking space at Buckingham Landing and put their other vehicles in the free spaces. (The one car to be left at Buckingham Landing would be used to bring their other drivers from the County Building to Buckingham Landing.) Day trippers would require a shuttle, but their use of the free parking would make more spaces available for Daufuskie residents who use the ferry for daily necessities (doctor and dentist appointments, trips to the Vet, grocery shopping, etc.). The Ferry Company will be encouraged to locate a vehicle which might be economically run to shuttle people between the free parking and Buckingham Landing.

Concern was also expressed about the Ferry Committee having to discuss the same problems at each Meeting because nothing changes. The same topics are discussed, various suggestions presented, promises to investigate what can be done to fix the situations – with no response from the Ferry Company.

Submitted by: Christine Sutcliffe