

Ferry Committee Meeting Notes

January 19, 2019

Parking was once again the 'hot' topic of the meeting. Since the ferry company uses the phrase 'guaranteed parking space,' people expect that they will have a guaranteed parking space in the lot at Buckingham Landing and are expecting that they may have to park at the gas station. This is of concern to many because of the infrequency of their trips. They don't want to leave their vehicle in open view of a busy road for the week or so between their trips to the mainland. It was suggested that during 'high season' (whenever that should fall, be it school breaks, holidays, or summertime), that tourists vacationers be directed to park at the gas station parking lot and offered transportation from the gas station to the departure point and return. Capt. Inglis expressed that the difficulty is the budget will not stretch to another employee to oversee that.

Capt. Inglis said that conversations are in progress with Palmetto Breeze to pick up passengers at the County Parking Lot (60 free spaces) and deliver them to Buckingham Landing, and upon their return, deliver them to the County Parking Lot. There would likely be a fee for this transportation. It is suggested that the tourists could use those spaces; they could drop off their luggage and passengers at Buckingham Landing, drive to the County Building, take the ferry to Daufuskie and reverse the process upon their return. That would free up the parking places at Buckingham Landing for residents during high season.

The question arose if charges would be made for parking at Melrose Landing. Capt. Inglis explained that the costs involved with fixing up the dock fall on the Ferry Company and they are considering ways to pay for those repairs. The thought of parking at Melrose (for longer than a day trip to the mainland) for a fee was one of the considerations. Because there are residents who pay for parking at Buckingham Landing and would then also have to pay at Melrose Landing, the plan met with dis-favor. It has been suggested that perhaps those who park commercial vehicles at Melrose Landing be the ones to pay for parking. There are few residents who park their carts or cars overnight at Melrose but many who park commercial vehicles there (in comparison).

Capt. Inglis said parking areas will be identified at Melrose Landing for parking for carts and for cars and trucks. An effort will be made to identify and remove abandoned vehicles which have been left there. This should allow more parking at Melrose Landing.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding an early and a late ferry to allow people to work on the Mainland. Many suggestions for times were made, especially regarding times to allow teachers to travel at times that would allow them to work for the Beaufort County schools, which, we've heard, are experiencing a shortage of teachers.

A reminder: If your prescription drugs can be delivered to Buckingham Landing by your pharmacy, the Ferry Company will transport them to Melrose Landing. You must be at the Melrose Landing to receive the package for the crew. No charge will be made for this service. Please note that this applies ONLY to medicines. Thank you to the Ferry Company for this humanitarian effort.

Respectfully Submitted: Chris Sutcliffe