



LOW TIDE FERRY TRIP CANCELLATIONS

The town has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers for several years to schedule dredging at the Stone Wharf. The situation has become a safety issue for CTC. Coast Guard regulations require our captains to report all groundings, and under certain circumstances that might trigger a full-blown accident investigation, taking the ferry out of service for the duration. Because of our worries about hitting bottom (or becoming entangled with underwater debris in the shallows), we have decided we must cancel trips on extreme low tides. Extreme low tides occur at various times throughout the year.

Beginning in August, we have modified our published "Crew Assistance Schedule" to include these trip cancellations. This information will be readily available on the CTC web page as well as in the monthly island calendar. We will also make sure that the Town of Chebeague is notified of ferry unavailability in advance so that Fire and Rescue has adequate time to arrange for coverage.

We regret that we have to cause this inconvenience to our passengers and the community but we must do so in the interest of safety for everyone.

CHEBEAGUE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

What's New at CTC?

The new normal

Well, it is anything but normal, but over the last few months CTC has worked to adjust to the current situation as conditions change. During this time, our staff and board have worked tirelessly to modify our policies and procedures in order to adapt in the most efficient way possible – with safety for crew and passengers as our top priority.

Passenger limit on the bus and ferry: Our crews evaluated the space available – taking measurements – and determined the maximum number of passengers (or in the case of the bus – seats) we could allow. On the bus we can allow nine seats to be occupied. On the ferry we can allow 32 passengers. (We were able to increase the passenger count from 20 to 32 through negotiations with the Coast Guard that allowed us to open the upper deck.)

Parking at Cousins: While the bus service was suspended, we secured additional parking on Wharf Road for residents that park at Route One. We required families with two vehicles at Cousins to move one to Route One and moved more Route One parkers to Cousins. When the bus service resumed, vehicles returned to their regular parking lot. However, because less people are going on trips or commuting, the Cousins lot is at capacity. Then why does Yarmouth have some reserved spaces? We are required to provide parking spaces to Yarmouth residents from a 1996 court order.

Barging at a Discount: CTC offered discount barging to families coming to the island to quarantine in order to provide the safest transportation method possible. Passengers remain in their vehicles on the barge. They can bring supplies for the period of their quarantine – thus reducing their need to go out and provision on the island. Once their quarantine is over, they must barge their mainland car off the island in order to get the discount. We adopted this policy to address the concern of many residents about the number of vehicles on the island.

Priority boarding: CTC has a long standing policy that we cannot police who gets on the ferry first – or last. This complaint is not new. We have been asked in the past to force people going to the island for a wedding, etc. to board last. Because we felt that we could early board commuters leaving Chebeague easily – and because residents need to get to work – we recently adopted this policy. However, the situation at Cousins is much more complicated. The ferry is not docked for a period of time at the float. Early boarding doesn't work. We do not have the ability to queue passengers (like an airline).

Reduced schedule: CTC's passenger count is down 70-80%. Through June, our net LOSS is approximately \$350,000 greater than the same period in 2019. We are operating with a limited crew on the ferry and are working closely with the Coast Guard to ensure we are in compliance with regulations and guidance.

COVID-19 ferry tickets: To allow for social distancing, tickets are no longer sold on the ferry. This has created extra work for our office and inconvenience for our customers.

Our employees have had to adapt to many new policies and procedures. They are doing their best to comply with the company's rules. We ask for your understanding and cooperation with our staff. Thank you.

August 2020

Annual Members Meeting

Our annual member meeting will be held on Saturday August 15th via ZOOM.

Mailing to members will be completed by August 1st.

If you would like to become a member provide name, address, and \$40 membership fee per person to the office.

Ferry Tickets

Customers should call the office and order tickets in advance. Tickets will be waiting on the ferry the next morning, except on weekends. Charges must be paid in 72 hours or the full one way fare will be charged. Please plan ahead.

August Employee Birthdays

Scott Martin, Office
Manager—8/8

Matt Ridgway, Assistant
General Manager - 8/17

Captain David Etnier
and Deckhand Lucas
Phipps- 8/29

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