

Sheepscot Island Company

President's Letter

26 April, 2021

Greetings to all MacMahaners!

As the 2021 season rapidly approaches, I am reaching out to share with you the SICO Board's thoughts about what COVID-related rules and practices we expect to have in place this summer.

First and foremost, as always we will follow whatever restrictions are set by the State of Maine (see <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/>). Please check whether these rules affect travel from your home state or require testing and/or quarantine on arrival. The rules may change depending on how the rates of infection trend over the coming months. So, please realize that whatever I write here may be overcome by circumstances beyond our control later.

Per the Maine and CDC guidelines, SICO will continue to require that you have a mask with you at all times on SICO property, particularly docks and floats, and to wear it and maintain safe distance when people outside your immediate family are present.

It is the Board's desire and goal to let the Island operate as closely to normal this summer as possible within those restrictions. So, **we plan to open the Playhouse and Yacht Club and allow gatherings there within the limits set by the authorities (currently 75% of rated capacity indoors. We need to measure the buildings to calculate this value. We will post it on the doors).** We would like to have the bathrooms in both buildings open again, though depending on whether the island staff have been vaccinated it may be necessary to once again reserve one for exclusive use by staff. If this is necessary, it will be posted.

The plan is to hold the May Members' Meeting once again via Zoom because typically only a minority of islanders are present that early in the year. Ideally, **we want to hold both the July Informational Meeting and the August Annual Members' Meeting live and in-person. As mentioned above, our ability to do this may change depending on Playhouse capacity under the rules at that time.** We don't have a way to hold a hybrid meeting, so the meetings will be either entirely in-person or entirely Zoom. **We will inform you in the invitations to SICO meetings whether they will be in-person or via Zoom.**

It seems likely that the capacity and mask wearing rules will make Pot-luck suppers in the Playhouse infeasible, particularly because entire families usually attend, not just cottage representatives.

As last year, a significant risk comes from activities off-island, particularly shopping and dining. It is likely that most people will jump at the chance to move about freely, regardless of their state of immunity. So, distancing and masks will continue to be key to avoid getting exposed to the virus and bringing it back to the island when you return. Please, for all of our sakes, observe good safety when off-island.

Stephen Baumgartner
President, Sheepscot Island Company