

Welcome to another year on MacMahan! I hope all of you are well, and look forward to seeing everyone this Summer.

SICO once again did well last year, thanks to Chris's expert management. However, due to the more than 6% increase in the cost of just about everything, there was less of a safety margin than in the past. We expect this trend to continue in 2022, leaving us with no margin to deal with contingencies. After careful study, the Board decided to raise the assessment by \$100, a bit less than 5%, and to raise a few hourly rates to stay in track with staff raises. We hope and expect this will see us safely through this summer.

Also, a reminder that last Summer we raised the fees for off-season and off-hours ferry service. Owners, please make sure your families and renters are aware of these changes.

As usual, the community responded well to the Christmas Bonus fund request (including farewell bonus gifts for Eric and Ernie). The staff sends their thanks to all of you for your generosity and appreciation.

Speaking of staff, during the winter we hired a new member, Matt Williams. Matt was previously the head custodian at the Georgetown School. He brings a wide variety of skills that will make a good fit with our needs, and a willingness to learn more. He is one of Liam Martin's favorite people. Please give him a warm welcome when you meet him. Welcome Matt!

As in the past, SICO will again follow the guidance of the CDC and State of Maine regarding restrictions or safety precautions concerning COVID-19. It is not possible at this time to say with certainty what these may be; they could change quickly. As the surge from the omicron variant is fading, most places are lowering or removing restrictions. Please remember that these changes are motivated more by economic, social, psychological, and political considerations than by public health. The virus is still with us and could surge again at any time. Also please respect the rights of other islanders who may feel the need to take precautions for any reason.

Although we are hopeful it will be corrected before the season opens, be advised if you plan to go out early that as of mid-March the island is without electricity.

We are optimistic that this summer the July and August meetings and possibly the Memorial Day meeting can be held live rather than via Zoom - if necessary, outdoors as we did last year.

Stephen Baumgartner
President, SICO