

Item Cover Page

NARRAGANSETT TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: May 19, 2025

FROM: James Tierney, Town Manager

DEPARTMENT: Town Manager

SUBJECT:

That the Town Council adopts a Resolution to petition its Honorable Delegation to the General Assembly that the landing fee, authorized by the General Assembly, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 45-2-35.2 and Chapter 343 of the Public Laws, to be charged, assessed, or otherwise collected by the Town of Narragansett on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving in the Port of Galilee to be increased to one dollar (\$1.00).

SUGGESTED ACTION:

This Resolution respectfully petitions its Honorable Delegation to the General Assembly, including Representative Teresa Tanzi (District 34), Representative Carol Hagan McEntee (District 33), and Senator Alana DiMario (District 36); that the landing fee, authorized by the General Assembly, pursuant to, to be charged, assessed, or otherwise collected by the Town of Narragansett on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving in the Port of Galilee to be increased to one dollar (\$1.00).

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 45-2-35.2 and Chapter 343 § 1 of the Public Laws, the Town Council of the Town of Narragansett was authorized to charge, assess, or otherwise collect a fifty cents (\$.50) landing fee on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving in the Port of Galilee, Narragansett, Rhode Island, by public or private boat; provided however that this provision shall not apply to vessels when they are engaged in commercial fishing.

In the course of the past approximately two (2) plus decades, the Town of Narragansett has seen significant increases in costs associated with the expenses related to security, police details, emergency medical services, labor, waste management and beautification of the Port of Galilee in direct correlation to incoming and outgoing public and private boat passengers utilizing the Port of Galilee.

The Town of New Shoreham is simultaneously seeking support to increase the New Shoreham landing fee to one dollar (\$1.00) on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving on Block Island pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 45-2-35. The Town of New Shoreham and Town of Narragansett currently have the same landing fee of fifty cents (\$.50) and both are seeking this needed increase.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Galilee Landing Fee Resolution - 5-19-2025.docx](#)

[webserver.rilegislature.gov__Statutes_TITLE45_45-2_45-2-35.2.htm.pdf](#)

[webserver.rilegislature.gov__Statutes_TITLE45_45-2_45-2-35.htm.pdf](#)

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT TO R.I.G.L. § 45-2-35.2 TO
INCREASE THE LANDING FEE COLLECTED BY THE TOWN OF NARRAGANSETT
IN THE PORT OF GALILEE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 45-2-35.2 and Chapter 343 § 1 of the Public Laws, the Town of Narragansett was authorized to charge, assess, or otherwise collect a fifty cents (\$.50) landing fee on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving in the Port of Galilee, Narragansett, Rhode Island, by public or private boat; provided however that this provision shall not apply to vessels when they are engaged in commercial fishing;

WHEREAS, during the past two plus decades, the Town of Narragansett has seen significant increases in costs associated with the expenses related to security, police details, emergency medical services, labor, waste management and beautification of the Port of Galilee in direct correlation to incoming and outgoing public and private boat passengers utilizing the Port of Galilee;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Shoreham is simultaneously seeking support to increase the New Shoreham landing fee to one dollar (\$1.00);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Narragansett Town Council, hereby respectfully petitions its Honorable Delegation to the General Assembly, including Representative Teresa Tanzi (District 34), Representative Carol Hagan McEntee (District 3), and Senator Alana DiMario (District 36); that the landing fee, authorized by the General Assembly, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 45-2-35.2 and Chapter 343 of the Public Laws, to be charged, assessed, or otherwise collected by the Town of Narragansett on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving in the Port of Galilee to be increased to one dollar (\$1.00).

Examined by:

Town Solicitor

PASSED:

Town Council President

Town Clerk

Title 45

Towns and Cities

Chapter 2

General Powers

R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-2-35

§ 45-2-35. Town of New Shoreham — Landing fee.

The town of New Shoreham is hereby authorized to charge, assess, or otherwise collect a fifty cent (\$.50) landing fee on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving on Block Island by public or private boat. All fees collected less expenses of collection shall be utilized by the town of New Shoreham to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all passengers, including, but not limited to, emergency medical services, acquisition of property to support tourism related activities, to construct and maintain tourism support facilities, and to establish a fund to assist the town of New Shoreham in resolving problems which may arise due to growth in the tourism industry. The town may enter into agreements with any common carrier serving the town of New Shoreham and any operator of a marina in the town of New Shoreham authorizing the carrier or marina operator to collect the landing fee on behalf of the town of New Shoreham. The agreement may provide for the payment of a fee by the town for the carrier or marina operator and the indemnification of the carrier or marina operator from and against any liability to, or claim of liability by third parties, arising from collection of the landing fee. Any common carrier may collect the landing fee on behalf of the town of New Shoreham by including the amount of the fee in its rate and charge to passengers without the necessity of approval of the landing fee from the public utilities commission or the division of public utilities and carriers under title 39. The landing fee authorized by this chapter does not apply to any persons receiving free transportation from a public utility under § 39-2-5. The town council of the town of New Shoreham shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

History of Section.

P.L. 1990, ch. 519, § 1; P.L. 1991, ch. 35, § 1.

Title 45

Towns and Cities

Chapter 2

General Powers

R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-2-35.2

§ 45-2-35.2. Town of Narragansett — Landing fee.

(a) The town of Narragansett is hereby authorized to charge, assess, or otherwise collect a fifty cents (\$.50) landing fee on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving in the Port of Galilee, Narragansett, Rhode Island, by public or private boat; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to vessels when they are engaged in commercial fishing. All fees collected, less expenses of collection, if any, shall be utilized by the town of Narragansett to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all passengers, including, but not limited to, emergency medical services; acquisition of both personal and real property to provide support to the ferry passengers; and to establish a fund to assist the town of Narragansett in resolving problems that arise due to the impact of vessels landing passengers in the town of Narragansett. The town of Narragansett may enter into agreements with any common carriers by water operating in the town of Narragansett and any operator of a marina in the town of Narragansett authorizing the common carrier or marina operator to collect the landing fee on behalf of the town of Narragansett. The agreement shall provide for the payment of a reasonable fee, not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the landing fee, by the town to the common water carrier or marina operator and indemnification of the water carrier or marina operator from and against any liability to, or claim of liability by, third parties, arising from the collection of the boarding fee. All such common carriers shall collect the landing fee on behalf of the town of Narragansett, by including the amount of the fee in its rate and charge to adult passengers without the necessity of approval of the landing fee from the public utilities commission ("PUC") or the division of public utilities and carriers ("DPUC") under title 39. The landing fee authorized by this chapter does not apply to any persons receiving free transportation from the public utility under § 39-2-5. The town council of the town of Narragansett shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section. The town of Narragansett may seek no fees from the common carriers other than those set forth in this section; provided, however, that this sentence shall not preclude the taxation of property, but not the vessels, of the common carriers pursuant to title 44.

(b) The rate relief previously authorized by the PUC for Interstate Navigation Company in 1997 (PUC Docket No. 2484) which authorized the increase of Interstate Navigation Company's rates (except the Block Island Passenger Commuter Rate) by one and four-tenths percent (1.4%) in order to pay for property taxes assessed against Interstate Navigation Company's vessels by the town of Narragansett shall continue in full force and effect until June 1, 2002. Notwithstanding the restriction placed by the PUC on the money collected by Interstate Navigation Company pursuant to this rate relief, the money shall be disposed of as follows: (1) From the monies collected as of June 30, 2001, Interstate Navigation Company shall make a one-time payment to the town of Narragansett of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000) and the town of Narragansett shall be authorized to retain the fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) previously paid to it by Interstate Navigation Company; (2) The balance of the funds collected as of June 30, 2001, are to be invested in equipment and facilities to serve the rate payers of Interstate Navigation Company subject to DPUC subsequent verification of that investment. If a dispute arises regarding the disposition of the funds as set forth in this section, then the DPUC or Interstate Navigation Company may petition the PUC for review, and the decision of the PUC shall be final and binding and not appealable. For purposes of this section, the use of such funds by Interstate Navigation Company for: (1) The repair and/or replacement of the bulkhead and related facilities at Interstate's Block Island facility; or (2) Interstate's expenses related to the construction of its new terminal facility in Galilee, including the construction of facilities for the connector road lots; and/or (3) The pre-payment of principal and related pre-payment fees on

the loan outstanding for the M/V Block Island, shall be deemed to be equipment and facilities that serve the rate payers of Interstate Navigation and shall not be subject to any prior review or approval by the DPUC and/or PUC; provided that subsequent verification and approval shall remain within the purview of the DPUC and PUC for rate making purposes. Any expenditures out of the funds collected as of June 30, 2001, for any other purposes shall require the prior approval of the DPUC to assure that the proposed expenditures are in the best interest of the rate payers. If a dispute arises between Interstate Navigation Company and the DPUC as to such proposed expenditures, then the DPUC or Interstate Navigation Company may petition the PUC for review.

(c) From the funds collected between July 1, 2001, and May 31, 2002, one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the total shall be paid to the town of Narragansett in June, 2002, and the balance shall be retained by Interstate Navigation Company to be invested in equipment and facilities to serve the rate payers of Interstate Navigation Company. Interstate Navigation Company shall be required to obtain the prior approval of the DPUC in order to expend these funds. If a dispute arises regarding the disposition of these funds as set forth in this section, the DPUC or Interstate Navigation Company may petition the PUC for review.

(d) As to property over which the town of Narragansett has regulatory control, the town of Narragansett may not prohibit overnight parking on private property and currently existing parking lots in Galilee, and there will be no mandatory offsite parking for cars in Galilee.

History of Section.

P.L. 2001, ch. 343, § 1; P.L. 2022, ch. 89, § 1, effective June 17, 2022; P.L. 2022, ch. 90, § 1, effective June 17, 2022.

**RESOLUTION
TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM, RHODE ISLAND
IN SUPPORT OF AN INCREASE TO THE NEW SHOREHAM LANDING FEE**

April 9, 2025

R-06-2025


WHEREAS, pursuant to RIGL 45-2-35 and Chapter 35 § 1 of the Public Laws of 1991, the Town of New Shoreham was authorized to charge, assess, or otherwise collect a fifty cent (\$.50) landing fee on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving on Block Island by public or private boat;

WHEREAS, the fifty cent (\$.50) landing fee that the Town of New Shoreham is authorized to charge, assess or otherwise collect has not been raised or adjusted since 1990;

WHEREAS, in the course of the past three and a half decades the Town of New Shoreham has seen significant increases in costs associated with the expenses related to the provision of emergency medical services, support of tourism related activities, the construction and maintenance of tourism support facilities and other functions promoting and sustaining the health, safety and welfare of passengers arriving on Block Island;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the New Shoreham Town Council hereby requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to amend RI General Law 45-2-35 to allow the Town of New Shoreham to charge, assess, or otherwise collect a one dollar (\$1.00) landing fee on each passenger over the age of twelve (12) arriving on Block Island by public or private boat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be made part of the permanent record of the Town. Witness our hands and seal this 9th day of April, 2025.



First Warden Keith Stover



Second Warden Nancy Dodge



Town Councilor Tristan Payne



Town Councilor Margaret O'Neill

Town Councilor William McCombe



Attest: Town Clerk Millicent Highet