



November 2018

Dear Three Mile Community,

One of the things that so many of us love about Three Mile Island is the constancy that we find there; much of what we experienced at TMI for a week this past summer or over a fall weekend would have been familiar to our parents and grandparents if they were Three Mile campers at our age. But change is inevitable, and Three Mile is not immune. Summer 2019 will see new co-managers, two people who already know TMI and appreciate its sense of community. Joyce Rains has been a longtime camper, served on the TMI committee and her daughter Molly was on the 2017 and 2018 Three Mile Croo. Luke Tobin did a great job for us as Island Educator in 2015 and 2016. During the school year Luke is at New Hampton School, where he teaches in the English department and coaches the snowboarding team. Although it's been hard to say goodbye to Will Holmes after his 11 years as TMI Summer Manager, I'm confident that the Management Search Committee made some wise choices and that Joyce and Luke will be enthusiastic and dedicated co-managers.

Every fall, the TMI committee struggles with setting the rates for the next year. There's a constant tension between wanting to keep the rates as low as possible and the Three Mile experience affordable for all who want to enjoy some time on the island, while also making sure that the camp operates in a safe, efficient and hospitable manner. In 2019, our rates will be 2% higher than they were in 2018. After operating costs (food, fuel, utilities, taxes, insurance, etc.) our largest expenditures are employee wages, capital projects, and the AMC surcharge. The surcharge, formally known as the Overhead and Public Service Fee, helps fund many of the things that the AMC does for Three Mile, such as payroll services and marketing assistance, and it also helps pay for programs and initiatives that support the AMC's core mission. Until this year, 15% of TMI revenue from campers was earmarked for the surcharge. Starting in 2018, that figure will increase 1% each year until it reaches 20%. I think it's important that you understand how expenses in many different areas play a part in influencing the committee's decision each fall in setting rates.

A key factor in keeping Three Mile's rates lower is the amazing and heartening culture of volunteerism that exists at TMI. Each year thousands of hours of labor and talent are generously and willingly given by and for the greater Three Mile community. The dollar figure represented by these hours is significant, and adding that amount to the expense side of our balance sheet would be a real hardship. A camp full of volunteers on opening and closing weekends every

year does fantastic work; a new cabin was built last year by a group of highly skilled volunteers; Derek Mansen volunteers his time and expertise to keep the TMI website running; Warren Morse, a chainsaw maestro, works wonders on TMI timber both high off the ground and closer to the earth. I could go on and on, but you get the idea. Thank you to all Three Mile volunteers for the important work that you do.

Reservation options in 2019 will remain consistent with what was offered in 2018. During week 1, children 13 and under will again stay for free when accompanied by one weekly full price adult. The partial week option, known as the “Summer Starter,” will be offered for the last four nights of week 1 if there are still week 1 spaces open on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If there is room week 1, we will let the Three Mile community know through an email blast and notification on the TMI website, and Summer Starter reservation forms will be made available for download. Don’t forget, the lottery remains in place for the normal reservation process. Be sure to put your completed reservation requests in the mail between January 1<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Do we have a good email address for you? Email has become the most productive, efficient and cost effective way to communicate with the TMI community. An email blast was sent out in late October with news on the summer management change, and I hope that most of you received that message. If you did not and you want to be added to our email contact list for future messages from Three Mile, you can go to the TMI website to opt in:

<http://www.3mile.org/>

And, I’m always available via email at [committeechair@3mile.org](mailto:committeechair@3mile.org) to answer any questions or address any concerns that you may have.

To circle back to the beginning of this newsletter, also new this fall is my role as the TMI Committee Chair, having taken over from Gillian King. Over the past nine years, Gill has put in a tremendous amount of work in service to TMI, first as Committee Treasurer and then as Committee Chair, for which we all owe her a great deal of gratitude. I am especially indebted to Gill for her mentoring and the smooth transition that she has facilitated. Thank you Gill!

See you on the dock!

Dave Carpenter

TMI Committee Chair